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*Cover: Tundra Swans, Choptank River, MD, March 1984. Photo by Luther C. Goldman.*

# DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF BREEDING RAILS AND OTHER MARSHBIRDS IN MARYLAND'S TIDAL MARSHES

DAVID F. BRINKER, GLENN D. THERRES, PETER J. TANGO, MICHAEL  
O'BRIEN, EIRIK A. T. BLOM, AND HAROLD L. WIERENGA

The Chesapeake Bay is one of the largest estuaries in the world and the surrounding wetlands are an essential component of this ecosystem. A particularly notable feature of these wetlands is the diverse community of obligate wetland breeding birds. For example, six of the nine North American species in the family Rallidae breed in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay (American Ornithologist Union 1983). As a result of the wide diversity of emergent wetlands found within the Chesapeake Bay estuary, it is one of few regions in North America with this diverse a community of breeding marshbirds.

The ecology, relative abundance, and population trends of rails and other obligate wetland breeding birds are poorly known throughout North America (Eddleman et al. 1988), including the Chesapeake Bay. During the 1950s, most of Maryland's breeding marshbirds were considered fairly common in coastal wetlands (Stewart and Robbins 1958). However, findings of the breeding bird atlas project in Maryland (Robbins and Blom 1996), conducted during the mid 1980s, suggested reduced distributions for some of these marshbirds.

No reliable estimates of breeding populations for Maryland's rails and other obligate wetland breeding birds (i.e., Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Common Moorhen) are known. Prior to this study, no comprehensive population surveys for these species were attempted in Maryland. The atlas project (Robbins and Blom 1996) focused on breeding distributions not population numbers.

The survey technique that has produced the best results for detecting breeding marshbirds is the use of taped vocalizations of target species played to elicit responses by these rails and other marshbirds. The use of recordings as a survey technique started in the late 1950s and has been used to survey a variety of avian species since then (Johnson et al. 1981). Tomlinson and Todd (1973) were the first to use this technique to study rails, and since then this technique has become more widespread in use for marshbird surveys. The technique basically works by broadcasting taped calls of the target marshbird into suitable habitat in an effort to elicit a response to the vocalization by birds occupying the wetland. The use of the tape is to increase the detectability of the species beyond that obtained by observation of spontaneous calling marshbirds. Increases in response rates have been documented (e.g., Glahn 1974, Swift et al. 1988, Gibbs and Melvin 1993). Demonstrated advantages of playback techniques include (1) increased numbers of individuals detected, (2) time efficient sampling, and (3) it facilitates detection of secretive species (Johnson et al. 1981).

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

### *Study Area*

Our study area was the emergent marshes of Maryland's Coastal Plain. Abundant tidal wetlands were scattered throughout the Coastal Plain along the edges of the Chesapeake Bay,

up its tributaries, and bordering the Atlantic coastal bays. Marshbird habitat was most abundant in Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester Counties. These three counties contained about 52% of the state's total wetland acreage (Tiner and Burke 1995). In these three counties wetlands were usually extensive complexes that exceeded 1,000 contiguous acres. Wetlands were much less abundant and more scattered throughout the remaining counties of the study area. In particular, emergent wetland patch size was much smaller outside of the lower Eastern Shore counties.

The wetlands most generally considered marshbird habitat were the 218,711 acres (Tiner and Burke 1995) of emergent types most readily recognized as marshes. In the Coastal Plain there were 172,346 acres of estuarine emergent wetlands characterized as salt/brackish. These wetlands were dominated by smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), salt meadow hay (*Spartina patens*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), black needlerush (*Juncus romerianus*), Olney three-square (*Scirpus americanus*), salt marsh bulrush (*Scirpus robustus*), and big cordgrass (*Spartina cynosuroides*). There were an additional 33,469 acres of estuarine emergent marsh that are characterized as oligohaline. The dominant plant species of oligohaline emergent marshes were narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), big-leaved arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), soft-stemmed bulrush (*Scirpus validus*), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*), and rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*). In the palustrine system there were 12,896 acres of emergent wetlands (Tiner and Burke 1995). Tidal palustrine emergent wetlands comprised 3,780 acres and the remaining emergent wetlands were nontidal. Just upstream of estuarine oligohaline emergent wetlands, the tidal palustrine emergent wetlands were characterized by a more diverse assemblage of plant species. In addition to the species found in oligohaline marshes were wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), bur marigold (*Bidens laevis*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), a variety of smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and numerous other species. Nontidal palustrine emergent wetlands were characterized by a wide variety of plant species including, narrow and broad-leaved cattails (*Typha* spp.), spatterdock, arrow arum, bur-reeds (*Sparganium* spp.), and a variety of rushes and sedges.

### **Field Surveys**

Field surveys were conducted at 331 points throughout Maryland's emergent wetlands (Figure 1). Point counts were conducted from a road or the edge of the wetland using taped calls of the target species. Most points were sampled twice, once prior to May 31 and a second time between June 1 and July 31. Carroll Island, Elliott Island, the Patuxent River marshes, and Tanyard wetlands were designated as intensive study areas where point counts were conducted as many as 9-20 times at weekly intervals during the breeding seasons of 1990 and 1991. During 1990, Dorchester, Talbot, and upper bay counties were sampled for distribution and relative abundance and Somerset, Worcester, and southern Maryland counties were sampled during 1991. A few select points from counties sampled in 1990 were replicated during 1991. Because of low response rates the western shore counties were selectively resampled during 1992.

Sampling generally began one hour before sunset and continued until one hour after sunrise. This time period was chosen because the target species were presumed to be primarily nocturnal in their patterns of vocalizations (Blom, Wierenga, and O'Brien, *pers. obs.*). Sampling was limited to nights without heavy rain and/or wind speeds below 15 mph, preferably below 10 mph. Although birds may remain vocal during periods of adverse weather or high wind, these conditions significantly reduce detectability by observers.

The sampling began with a 5-minute period of listening for spontaneous vocalizations. This was followed by two tape treatments, primary species and secondary species. The session concluded with a second 5-minute period of listening for spontaneous vocalizations. Tapes were played at full volume, approximately 80-85 dB when measured 2 m from the speaker.

Based upon anticipated relative distribution and abundance, as well as anticipated value in eliciting responses from other members of the target species group, the marsh bird species were divided into two groups (treatments), primary and secondary species. The most abundant and widely distributed species, Clapper, King and Virginia rails and Common Moorhen comprised the primary group. The less frequent and more patchily distributed species, the secondary group, consisted of the Black Rail, Sora, American and Least bitterns, and Pied-billed Grebe.

The play-back treatments consisted of alternating calling and listening periods. Calls for each of the target species consisted of a repeated series of vocalizations. The first vocalization was always the “primary advertisement” call. Other vocalizations that followed in the series include the “grunt-oink” type call for a species and/or the “ornithological mystery” call. Tapes were prerecorded for each separate arrangement of vocalizations. Within a species, calls were spaced at intervals appropriate for that species. Each 2-minute calling period contained approximately 10 vocalizations separated by quiet periods. Glahn (1974) found that 79% of Virginia Rail and Sora vocalizing in response to tape play-backs did so within the first 5 taped calls. Play-backs were followed by a listening period of equal length.

### **Data Analysis**

Species distributions were summarized based on presence-absence. Sample locations were combined for 1990, 1991, and 1992 breeding season surveys (May 15-July 15) to provide the most comprehensive view of marshbird distributions and abundance. Relative abundance was determined for each species using the highest count obtained during any single visit to each point surveyed. This results in a minimum abundance estimate.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A minimum of 2,405 individual marshbirds were encountered during the three May 15 through July 15 survey periods at 233 points. At 98 points no rails were detected. Encounters ranged from a single species heard once from a point to as many as 7 species heard numerous times during multiple visits to a point. The maximum number of individuals, irrespective of species, detected at a single point was 48. Table 1 provides a summary of observations by species.

Virginia Rail was the most widespread and abundant breeding marshbird in Maryland’s tidal wetlands (Figure 2). Its highest numbers were found in the large marshes on the lower Eastern Shore. It was the only rail found consistently in marshes from the upper Chesapeake Bay. The distribution found during our study collaborates that of the Atlas project (Wierenga 1996b), except we documented more sites along the lower Potomac River in Southern Maryland than did the Atlas.

King Rail records were concentrated along the middle of the Choptank River with scattered occurrences elsewhere around the bay (Figure 3). This species’ distribution and abundance

appears to have changed the most over the past 40 years. We found King Rails to be locally abundant only in the marshes of the Choptank River, especially the Tanyard Wetlands. They were found at only a few other sites during our study. The Atlas (Blom 1996b) reported King Rails along the Patuxent River, Somerset County, and coastal bay marshes during the period 1983-87. We found no King Rails at these locations. In the 1950s, King Rails were considered common in the upper Chesapeake Bay (Stewart and Robbins 1958). With the exception of Black Marsh, we found no King Rails here. Meanley (1969) reported this species was found in its greatest numbers in the vast area of fresh and brackish marshes of Dorchester County. We found only a few occurrences in this area during our study. Perhaps changes in wetland structure and vegetative composition account for this change. Meanley (1975) also reported King Rails from the brackish marshes of the Nanticoke River, which we did not survey. The reduction in King Rail distribution and abundance in Maryland is consistent with declines reported throughout its range (Meanley 1992).

There appears to have been a shift in King and Clapper rail distribution in Maryland. Clapper Rails were concentrated on the lower Eastern Shore (Figure 4) including the Dorchester County marshes, as was found during the Atlas project (Blom 1996a). However, Stewart and Robbins (1958) reported Clapper Rails to be common only in the coastal bay marshes, uncommon in Somerset County, and local in the fringe marshes of the lower Chesapeake Bay. Perhaps Clapper Rails have displaced King Rails from their traditional wetlands or habitat changes have become more suitable for Clappers and less so for King Rails.

The stronghold for the Black Rail in Maryland was the extensive tidal marshes of Dorchester County (Figure 5). A few Somerset County marshes supported Black Rails, as did a few other wetlands around the Chesapeake Bay. Black Rails were also found on Assateague Island and one other wetland in the coastal bays. We found Black Rails at more locations than were documented by the Atlas project (Wierenga 1996a).

Sora, American Bittern, and Pied-billed Grebe were found at few wetlands during our study (Figure 6). We are at the southern periphery of these species' breeding ranges (American Ornithologist Union 1983) and therefore low numbers were expected. American Bitterns were found at several more locations during the Atlas (Davidson 1996a). Stewart and Robbins (1958) considered this species to be a fairly common breeder in the tidal marshes of the lower Eastern Shore. Its breeding population has declined here since then. Pied-billed Grebes were also found more often by Atlas field workers (Ringler 1996), but most often in impoundments that were not surveyed during our study. During the Atlas, Sora was found at only one location on the coastal plain (Davidson 1996c), that being along the Patuxent River. In addition to the Patuxent River, we found Soras along the Choptank and Chester rivers, at a marsh in lower Dorchester County, and at Black Marsh. Stewart and Robbins (1958) reported Soras as rare and local breeders on the coastal plain.

Common Moorhens were concentrated in two areas (Figure 7); wetlands along the Choptank River and several marshes on the lower Eastern Shore. They were also found at one site along the Patuxent River and one site on the Sassafras River. Atlas field workers found Common Moorhens scattered throughout the coastal plain (Stewart 1996) and at several locations on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay. Stewart and Robbins (1958) and Meanley (1975) considered it a common breeder along the Gunpowder River estuary, where we failed to find any. Moorhens prefer wetlands with emergent vegetation interspersed with equal amounts of open water (Greij 1994), which in our area are usually characteristic of impounded wetlands which we did not survey.

Least Bitterns were uncommon and scattered around the tidal marshes of the bay as well as up into various drainage upstream of their confluence with the bay (Figure 8). Since Least Bitterns are more vocal after dawn (Swift et al. 1988, Gibbs and Melvin 1993), our findings probably under sampled this species' distribution and abundance. The Atlas (Davidson 1996b) documented it at several locations on the lower Eastern Shore, along the Patuxent River, and scattered elsewhere around the Bay. Stewart and Robbins (1958) considered the Least Bittern a common breeder in Chesapeake Bay tidal wetlands. Meanley (1975) reported it as a common nesting bird in the Gunpowder River marshes, though none were found during this study.

## **SUMMARY**

The large tidal marshes of the lower Eastern Shore supported the highest diversity and abundance of breeding marshbirds. Elliott Island and the marshes surrounding Fishing Bay are of great importance to these birds. The majority of the state's Black Rail population was found here. The brackish marshes along the Choptank River are another important marshbird area in Maryland. These marshes supported the highest populations of King Rail in the state. Two areas of value on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay are the freshwater marshes along the Patuxent River and Black Marsh in Baltimore County. All five species of rails were found at Black Marsh.

Of particular concern in tidal Maryland are the marshes of the upper Chesapeake Bay. These wetlands were relatively devoid of marshbirds. Though suitable habitat existed for certain species, they were noticeably absent. Perhaps the quality of these wetlands has degraded such that they cannot support these birds. A detailed investigation of the functional aspects of these wetlands, including their abilities to support invertebrate communities, may be in order. The marshes on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay also appear to support fewer marshbirds than they formerly had. Loss of wetlands was probably a major factor in this area.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank the private landowners and public land managers who granted us permission to conduct surveys on their properties from dusk to dawn. Public agencies who allowed these surveys to be conducted on their lands included the U.S. Army, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. Funding for this project was provided primarily through donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund. A grant was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Webless Migratory Game Bird Research Program to analyze the data.

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**Table 1. Summary of Marshbird Detections<sup>a</sup> in Maryland  
During 1990-1992**

	Number of Points <sup>b</sup>	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median	Mode	Total
Virginia Rail	207	1	28	6.9	6.0	1	1,437
King Rail	23	1	8	2.5	2.0	1	58
Clapper Rail	111	1	35	4.2	3.0	1	462
Unidentified (King/Clapper)	8	1	3	1.6	1.5	1	13
Black Rail	73	1	7	1.9	1.0	1	140
Sora	10	1	14	3.1	1.0	1	31
American Bittern	1	2	2	2.0	2.0	2	2
Least Bittern	13	1	2	1.2	1.0	1	16
Common Moorhen	22	1	12	2.3	1.0	1	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,405</b>
Species Diversity	233	1	7	2.0	2.0	2	-

<sup>a</sup> minimum number of discrete individuals detected simultaneously

<sup>b</sup> number of points where the species was detected at least once (i.e., values > 0)

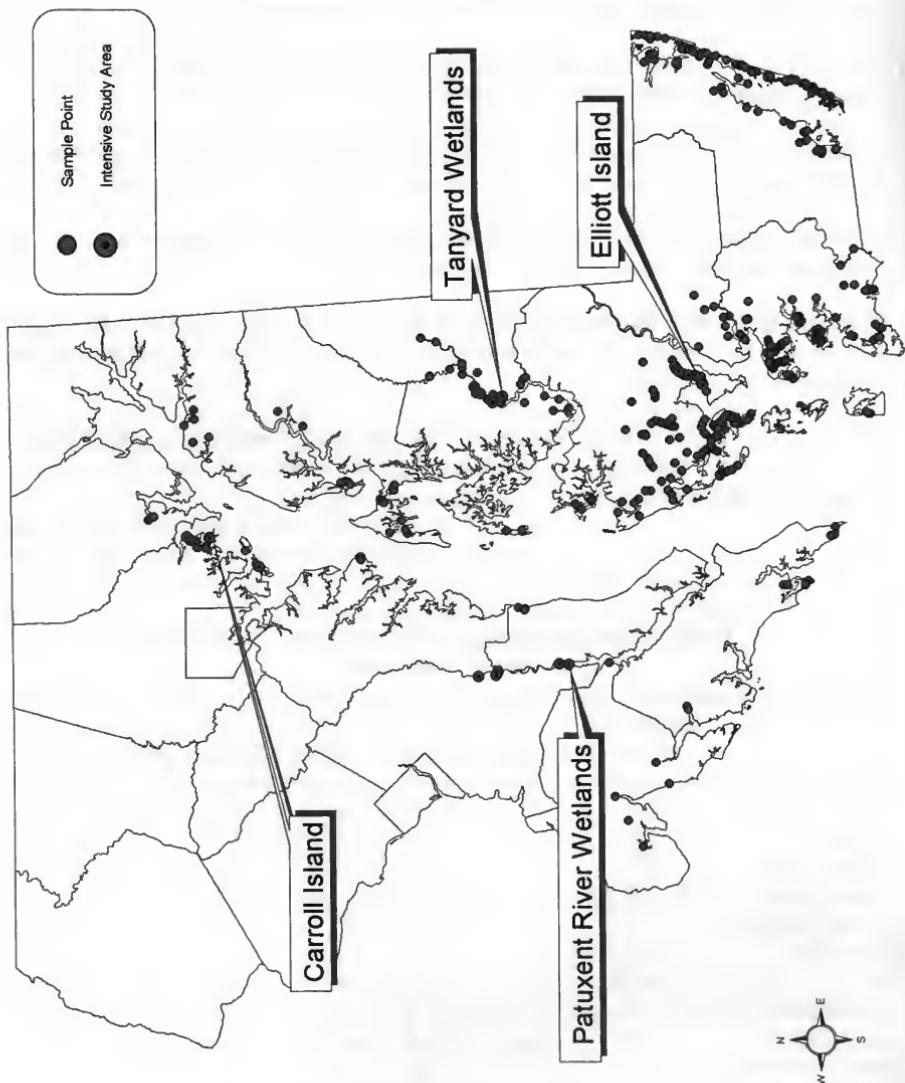


Figure 1. Locations of sample points surveyed during the breeding seasons of 1990-92 using tape playback methods for breeding rails and other marshbirds.

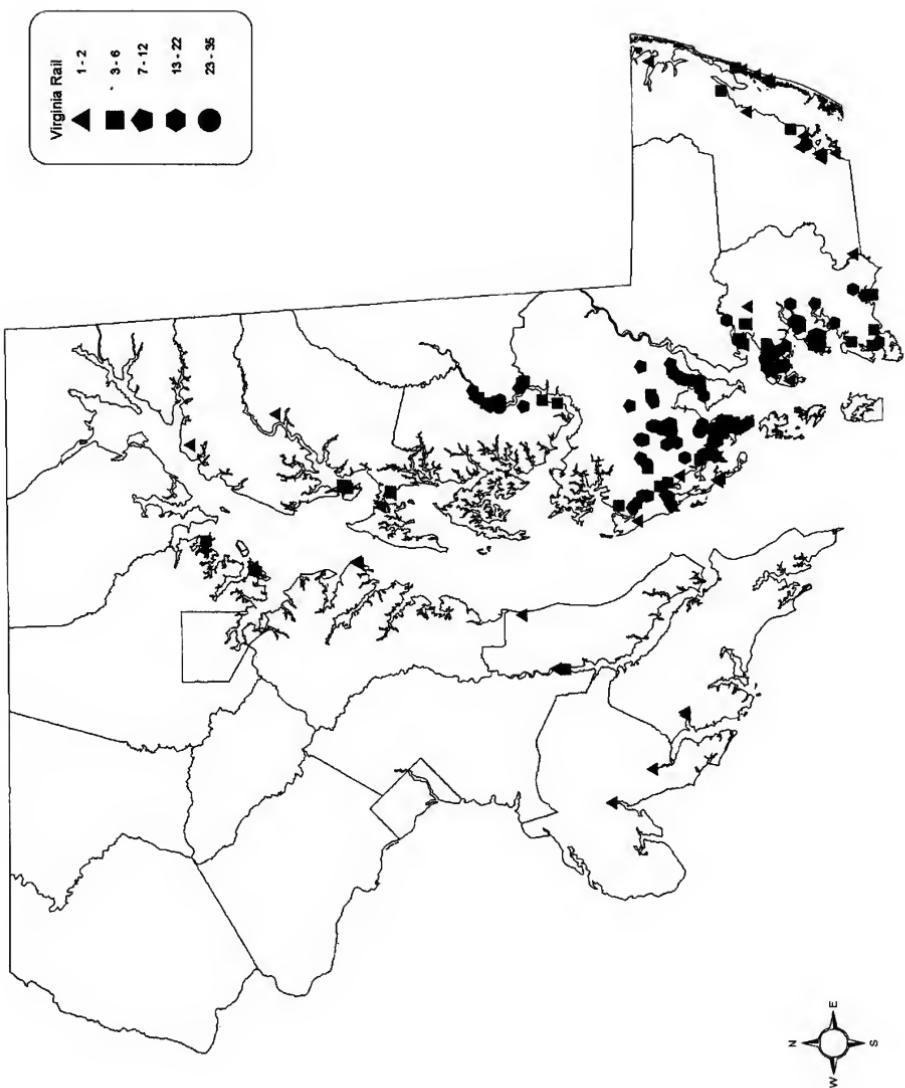


Figure 2. Distribution and relative abundance of Virginia Rail during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

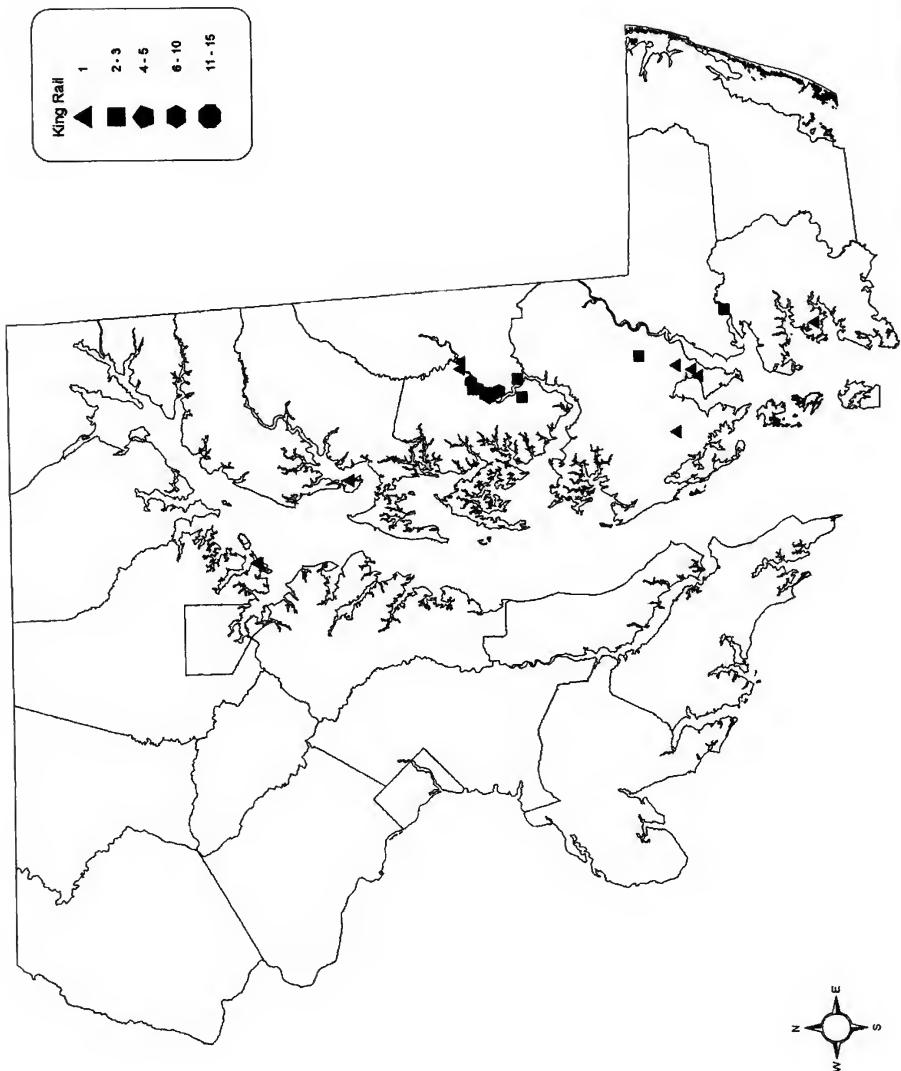


Figure 3. Distribution and relative abundance of King Rail during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

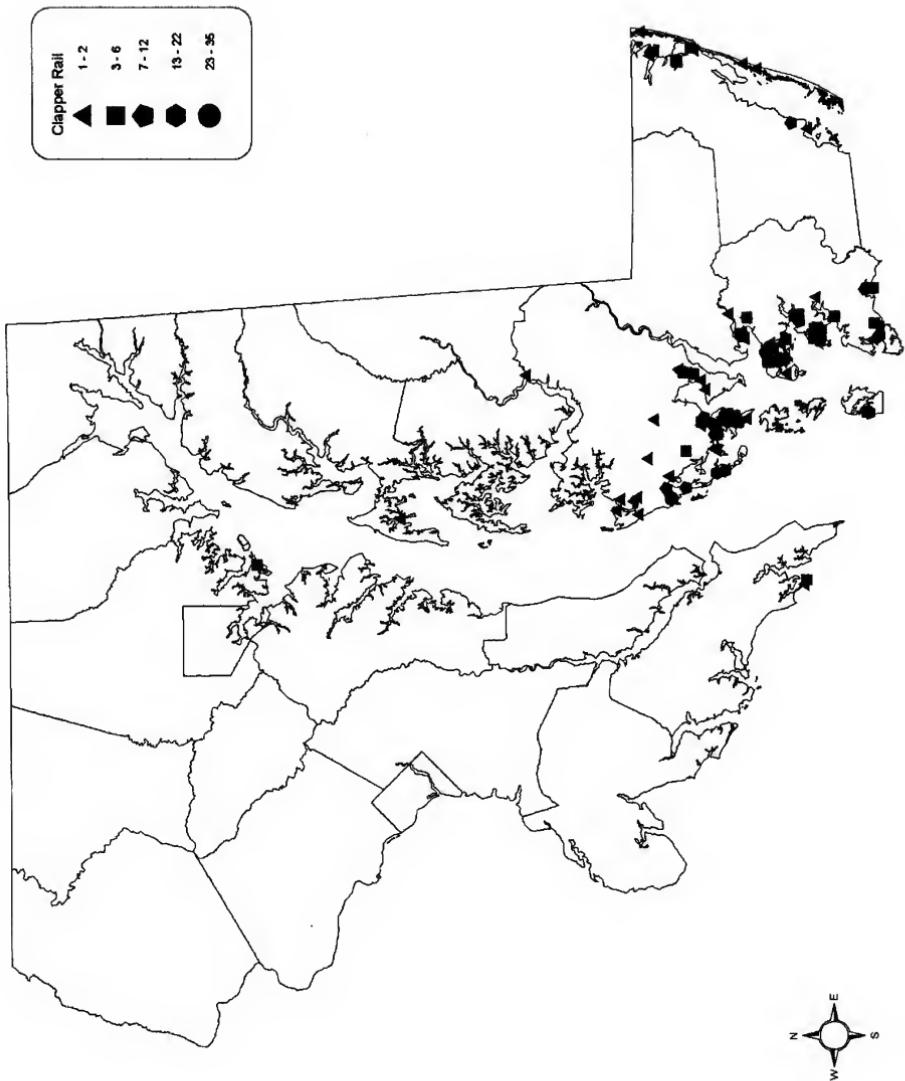


Figure 4. Distribution and relative abundance of Clapper Rail during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

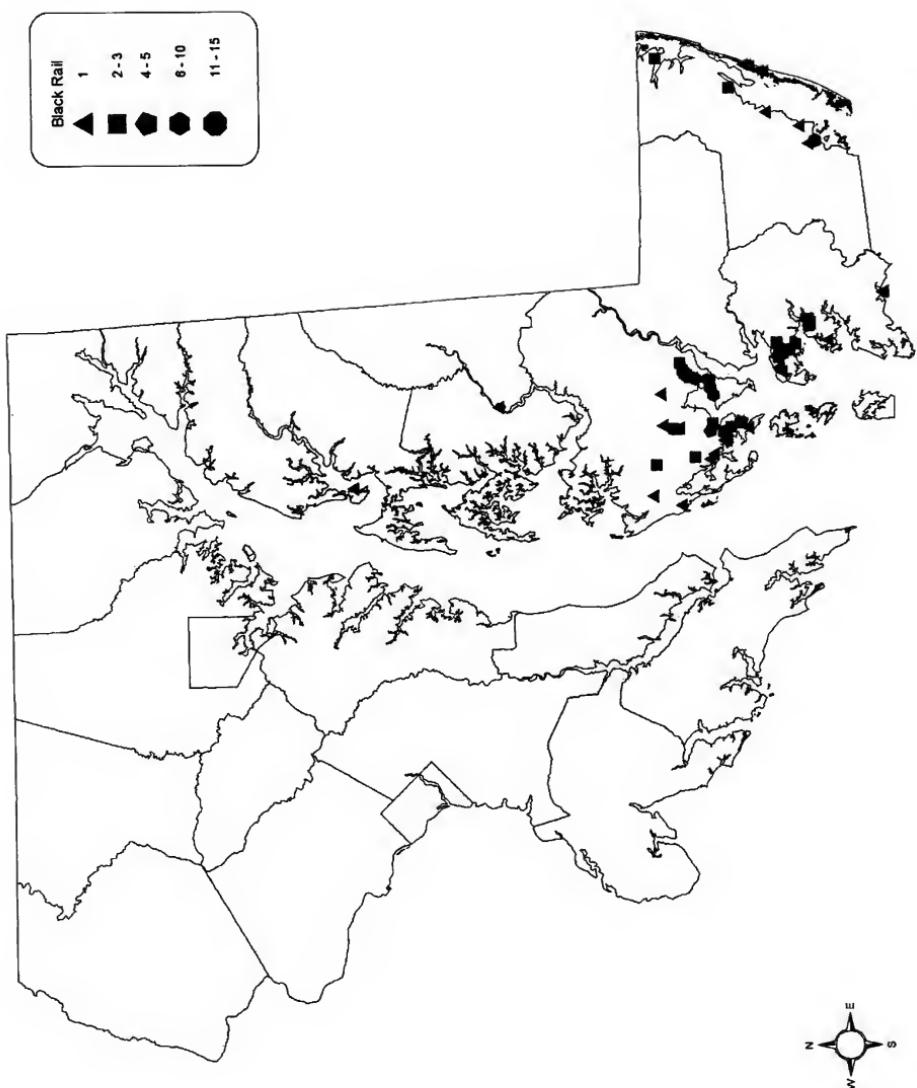


Figure 5. Distribution and relative abundance of Black Rail during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

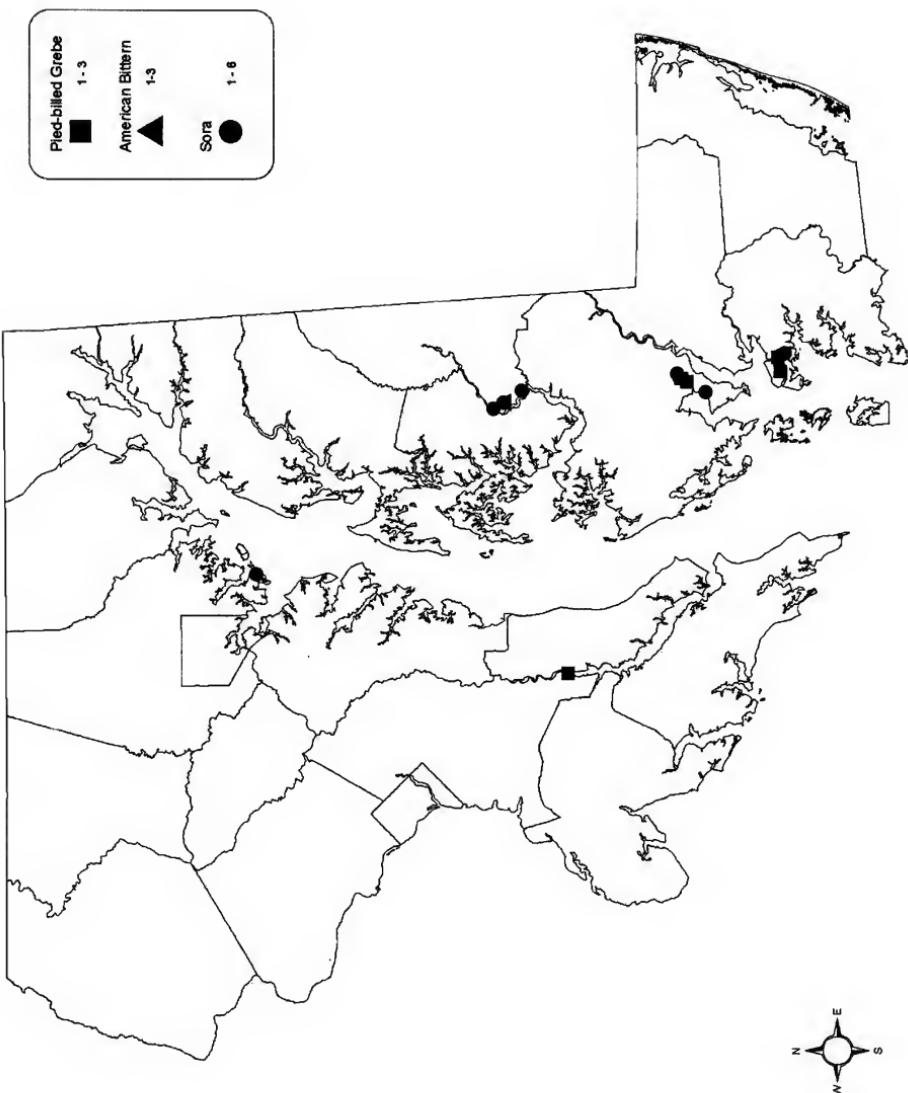


Figure 6. Distribution and relative abundance of Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, and Sora during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

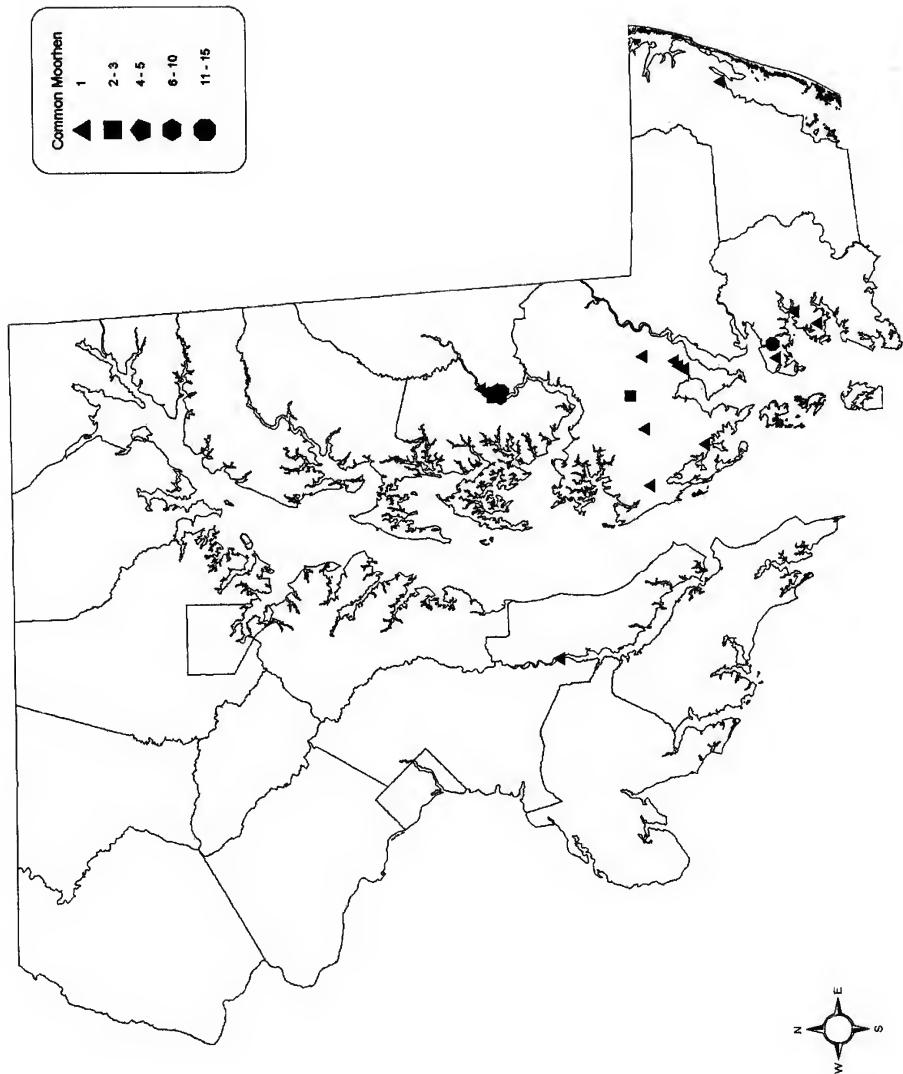


Figure 7. Distribution and relative abundance of Common Moorhen during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

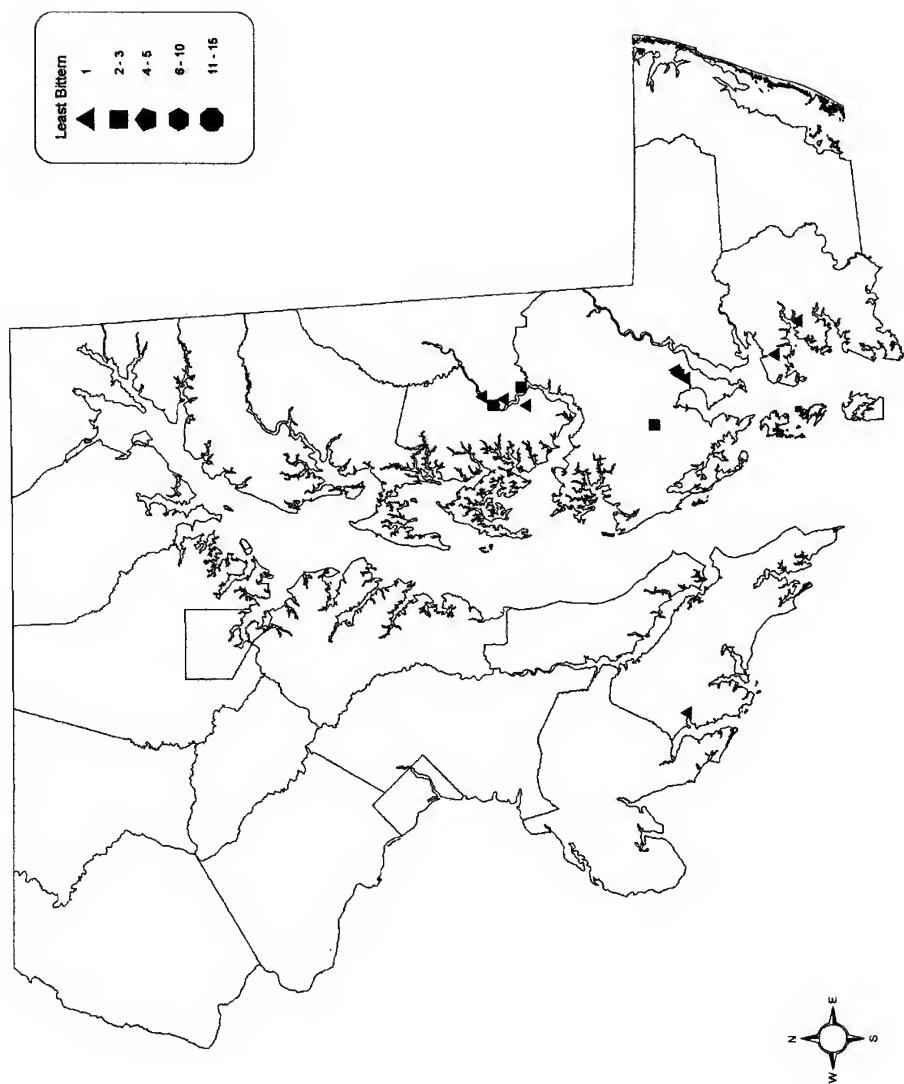


Figure 8. Distribution and relative abundance of Least Bittern during the breeding seasons of 1990 through 1992.

## AN ARTISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE PETERSON FIFTH EDITION

JON BOONE

Roger Tory Peterson's illustrations for the fourth edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds* (1980) were the most artful of his career. Indeed, the images of birds in this volume — just birds, without background or foliage yet shown in characteristic aspect and scale — are among the most beautiful conjurings of twentieth century mass culture.\* Peterson's genius crafted vivid representations of individual species with elegant heuristic intention, inviting immediate informative comparison because he displayed them with species of similar appearance. With few exceptions, his birds really look like their real-life counterparts. For many, he produced stunning character studies that endure as definitive portraits. At the same time, the artist arranged these expressive images within a distinctive spatial harmony reminiscent of the Chinese print aesthetic which informed his work as a decorative furniture painter when he was a teenager in his hometown of Jamestown, New York. The always engaging equilibrium between less-is-more imagery in just-so space, the hallmark of Peterson's style, is very much in evidence here. Such art merits preservation.

But how to protect artistic legacy in a book that by its nature must perpetually evolve in response to change? With Peterson's death in 1996 and the subsequent death of his wife and partner, Virginia Marie, in 2001, this question permeated the recent release of the long-awaited fifth edition of the eastern field guide. The challenge for this and all future editions is how to preserve the integrity of Peterson's art and design while gracefully incorporating reasonable modification.

In the new fifth edition, Houghton-Mifflin, Peterson's publisher since the beginning of his career in 1934, responded to this challenge with much sensitivity and intelligence. The new version expanded the range of birds covered in earlier editions to include central and southern Texas into the northern tip of Mexico, adding many birds to the original mix. The illustrations for nearly all of these additional species were taken liberally from those in Peterson's third edition (1990) of his western field guide and interspersed throughout the book, in many cases replacing images of birds made for the fourth edition eastern guide. Peterson himself painted seven new color plates while adding to or modifying parts of many others. The resulting assemblage retains a high level of artistic consistency because all the images came from the same hand.

There is much to like about the fifth edition. The larger size, flexible binding, and thumbnail range maps within the text all improve the book's utility. The general quality of reproduction was higher than many of the printings of past editions. I generally enjoyed the newly rounded contours of the waterfowl, preferring them to the severe decoy-like imaginary water lines depicted in the fourth edition. The color highlights added to plates previously rendered in black-and-white also improved the look. I'm especially glad Houghton-Mifflin decided to retain the wonderful silhouettes on the inside of the front and back covers, for they exemplify the image/space harmony characteristic of Peterson's best work. Finally, the cover illustration is superb, a very artful transposition and reorientation of the classic Blue Finches plate that, in the text, seems overcrowded.

The reproduction quality of some plates is problematic, however. For example, the color intensity of the Blackburnian Warbler page is so pale that the male Blackburnian looks more like the female. Inadequate color intensity also diminishes the artistic level of plates such as Nuthatches and Creepers (perhaps the most elegant of all the pages) and particularly Falcons. Conversely, the reproduction of the Tufted Titmouse is so brownish that it likely will make identification of the bird in the field more difficult for the novice.

A few unwise editorial decisions also compromise Peterson's art. The replacement of the western guide Upland Sandpiper for the original in the fourth edition was nearly inexcusable. It's one of the few instances where the illustration doesn't complement the text. The fifth edition Upland Sandpiper looks more like a Ruff or Stilt Sandpiper than it does the real-life bird, which has a small head and *very* "large eyes." Future publications should retain the fourth edition image of the Upland Sandpiper because it more accurately represents the bird's "pigeon-headed" appearance. Moreover, though the western guide replacements for the Ruff and the Sanderling in the fifth edition are adequate, I prefer the way Peterson depicted these species in the fourth edition; his illustrations here are not fussy and overly detailed, as they are for these species in the western guide.

The fourth edition Belted Kingfishers rank among Peterson's most powerful portraits of birds; the western guide replacements for them in the fifth edition don't begin to compensate. From an aesthetic viewpoint, this is an egregious substitution. The editors clearly reasoned that including a large illustration of the Ringed Kingfisher justified removal of the original kingfishers to create more room for the former on the page. Given the power of those original images, however, this kind of editorial elision insults Peterson's art. The Ringed Kingfisher, an uncommon resident along the Rio Grande, should have been moved to the back of the book and placed among South Texas Specialties.

Occasionally, in a too hasty desire to shoehorn as many species as possible onto some of the plates, liberties were taken that violated the sufficiency of Peterson's art. Several of the fourth edition plates became overcrowded in the process. The artist had painted an average of only four bird species on a plate in this edition not only to enhance the reader's learning efficiency but also to establish a graceful apposition of image and space. Contrast the exquisite Blue Finches plate of the fourth edition with that of the new edition. Notice how graceful the images appear in the former and how compressed and contrived they seem in the latter.

Even though this was a plate in which Peterson himself made alterations, he strained his artistry to comply with a misguided notion to put all the blue finches on one page. The plate he actually painted succeeded well enough because there was a lot of open space around it, but the reproduction in the book squeezed much of that space away to get all the images on the page. The editors should have either reorganized the plate as they did for the book's cover or instead inserted only the winsome new illustration of the male Varied Bunting (which nicely compensated for a poor representation of this species in his western guide), retained the image of the original family of Indigo Buntings, and relegated the Blue Buntings (very rare visitors) to South Texas Specialties, as in fact had already been done. They also should have retained the fourth edition plate on Wrens, made so perfectly concise and harmonious, and moved the discordant additions of the western guide pictures of the Cactus and Canyon Wrens to the back, joining the Ringed Kingfisher. This overcrowding sometimes results in confusion; a tacked on illustration of a Tropical Parula is labeled as a male when it is in fact a female.

Peterson knew his ultimate legacy would reside in his field guide art. Surely this was the reason he was laboring to complete his plate on Accidental Flycatchers the morning before the day he died. (In the last paragraph of her preface to the fifth edition, Mrs. Peterson movingly referred to this effort). Therefore the greatest care should be undertaken in all future publications to safeguard the towering artistic achievement of his fourth edition eastern guide. The new edition made a mighty effort to do so, but fell a little short, diminishing the integrity of a few of Peterson's masterful designs. While conceding the complexity, and even the desirability, of reconfiguring scores of images in order to keep pace with change, I trust the keepers of Peterson's artistic flame will proceed with an artist's eye overruling a lister's heart.

\*Witness the magnificence of his work in *The Field Guide Art of Roger Tory Peterson, Eastern Birds* (1990). Here the mostly full sized field guide paintings of the fourth edition are reproduced in folio at a high level of quality and fidelity to the original image. The art is surpassed only by Audubon's Elephant Folio in the annals of American natural history representation. Most beautiful of all the field guides is Peterson's *Eastern Birds, Large Format Edition* published posthumously in 1999. Its quality of reproduction is very high, no doubt largely because Virginia Marie Peterson supervised the process. Anyone interested in the art of Peterson's field guides should keep this book in a special place.

Oakland, MD 21550

## NORTHERN SHRIKE (*LANIUS EXCUBITOR*) AT CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

JIM PAULUS

At 9:15 a.m. on December 29, 2000, while walking my dog at Constitution Park, I saw what I first thought was a Loggerhead Shrike (*L. ludovicianus*) perched on the top bar of a chain-link fence that surrounds a Little League ball park. When I arrived back at my car, I was able to drive up to the fence, now about 40 feet away. The bird was perched with its back toward me. It then turned around, facing me, and with 10x56 glasses, I saw the following field marks.

I was surprised at the large size of the black bill, and how conspicuous the downward hook was on the upper mandible. The rump was unmarked white, and the black mask extended through the eye with at least one-half of the eye above the mask. The mask did not extend across the forehead. The body underparts were white, barred with thin, gray, evenly spaced horizontal lines, from upper breast to the lower belly. The top of the head, nape, and upper back were unmarked and light gray in color. The temperature was 18° F., with cloudy skies and calm wind.

These field marks made this bird an adult Northern Shrike (*L. excubitor*), my first sighting in Allegany County. I returned in ten minutes with my camera, but the bird had flown to the top of a red oak tree, too far away for a picture. The shrike remained in the area for six days and was last seen on January 4, 2001. No pictures were acquired, and while viewing this bird it did nothing unusual. No voice was heard and no feeding was observed.

P.O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501-1883



## REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

### OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS, & LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

**Observers:** Bob Abrams, Joe Alexander, Terry Allen, George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Jean Artes, Fred Atwood, Glenn Austin, Zach Baer, Linda Baker, Marcia Balestri, Abbie Banks, Tyler Bell, Wayne Bell, Debby Bennett (reporting for Caroline Co.), Mary-Jo Betts, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Jeff Boltz, Mike Bowen, Debbie Bowers, Gwen Brewer, Dave Brinker, Nolan Britt, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Don Burggraf, Fred Burggraf, Danny Bystrak, Phil Calise, Mike Callahan, Rick Cheicante, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig (reporting for St. Mary's Co.), Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Barbara Davis, Phil Davis, Todd Day, Eric Decker, Jack Dent, Curtis Dew, Tina Dew, Allen Deward, Bob Dixon, Marie Djoudi, Bill Dobbins, Marian Dobson, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Mark Eanes, Les Eastman, Don Eberly, Ward Ebert, Ethel Engle, Carol Erwin, Fred Fallon, David Farner, Kevin Fehskens, Jim Felley, Gary Felton, Leslie Fisher, Steve Ford, Jean Fry (reporting for Harford Co.), Larry Fry, Greg Futral, Carol Ghebelian, Andrew Gilbert, Doug Gill, Shireen Gonzaga, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Matt Hafner, Joe Halpin, Sue Hamilton, Tom Harten, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, Dick Homan, John Hubbell, Bart Hutchinson, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Parke John, Jason Johnston, Frances Juriga, John Juriga, Greg Kearns, Ray Kiddy, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Jane Kostenko, Elise Kreiss, Paul Kreiss, Kevin Krogh, Dave Larkin, Ellen Lawler, Peter Lev, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, John Maloney, Sean McCandless, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Georgia McDonald, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Greg Miller, Brian Monk, Dave Mozurkewich, Bob Mumford, Dottie Mumford, Sue Neri, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Daryl Olson, Bonnie Ott, Mary Paul, Jim Paulus, Dave Perry, Sherry Peruzzi, Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Frank Powers, Phil Powers, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Craig Richard, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Susan Schneider, Bill Schreitz, Kurt Schwarz, Bill Scudder, Fred Shaffer, Lisa Shannon, Jay Sheppard, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Jared Sparks, Jim Stasz, Herndon Steilkie, Tom Stock, Eva Sunell, Rick Sussman, Jerry Tarbell, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Kate Tufts, Craig Tumer, Mark Wallace, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Don Waugh, Dave Webb, Pete Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Willey, Ray Wilson, Paul Woodward, Michele Wright, Gary Yoder, Helen Zeichner.

**Abbreviations:** AA – Anne Arundel Co.; AL – Allegany Co.; APG – Aberdeen Proving Ground; HA; APL – Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; HO; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; EC – Environmental Center; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; JEDS – Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, TA; KAG – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NA – Natural Area; NEA – Natural Environment Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, SM; PVSP – Patapsco Valley State Park; PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, PG; QA – Queen Anne's Co.; RP – Regional Park; SF – State Forest; SM – St. Mary's Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, HO; UWBP – Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant; YRR – Youghiogheny River Reservoir, GA.

**Locations (followed by abbreviation of county):** Aaron Run, GA; Adamstown, FR; Adkins Arboretum, CN; Allens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge Park, HO; Anacostia Park, DC; Annapolis, AA; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Avalon Area PVSP, HO; Back River, BA; Beauvue, SM; Bel Air, HA; Belmont, HO; Beltsville, PG; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Big Pool, WA; Bishopville, WO; Bivalve, WI; Black Hill RP, MO; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bladensburg, PG; Bloodsworth Island, DO; Blue Plains, DC; Bodkin Island, QA; Bowie, PG; Bridge Creek, WI; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Broad Creek, PG; Broadford Lake, GA; Brown's Station Landfill, PG; Bryans Road, CH; California, SM; Calvert Cliffs, CT; Cambridge, DO; Centennial Park, HO; Central Sod Farms, QA; Centreville, QA; Chesapeake Beach, CT; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chestertown, KE; Chingville, SM; Chino Farms, QA; Columbia, HO; Conowingo Dam, HA/CE; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Cove Point, CT; Cranesville Swamp, GA; Crocheron, DO; Crofton, AA; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Daisy, HO; Dameron, SM; Dan's Rock, AL; Daniels, HO; Deal Island WMA, SO; Deep Creek Lake, GA; Denton, CN; Dunkirk, CT; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eagles Nest Campground, WO; East Potomac Park, DC; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Eden Mill Park, HA; Edgewood Area of APG, HA; Elk Neck SF, CE; Elkton, CE; Ellicott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Elms Beach Park, SM; Federalsburg, CN; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fletchers Boathouse, DC; Fort McHenry, BC; Fort Smallwood Park, AA; Four Corners, CN; Four Mile Run, DC; Fran Uhler NA, PG; Frederick, FR; Fulton, HO; Georgetown Reservoir, DC; Gilbert Run Park, CH; Gortner, GA; Grantsville, GA; Grayton, CH; Greenbelt, PG; Greenbrier SP, WA; Greensboro, CN; Greenwell SP, SM; Grove Neck WMA, CE; Gunpowder River, HA/BA; Hains Point, DC; Hallmark, HO; Harford Glen EC, HA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Hebron, WI; Henryton, HO/CL; Herrington Harbor, AA; Holland Island, DO; Hollywood, SM; Hooper Island, DO; Horsehead Wetlands Center, QA; Hurlock, DO; Indian Head, CH; Indian Springs WMA, WA; Ingleside, QA; Jarrettsville, HA; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Joppatowne, HA; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Island, QA; Kent Narrows, QA; Kent Point, QA; Kinder Farm Park, AA; Kingman Lake, DC; Kings Landing Park, CT; Lake Artemesia, PG; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaqundi, HO; Kitts Point, SM; Lakeside Business Park, HA; Lambs Knoll, WA; Lapidum, HA; Layhill Park, MO; Laytonsville, MO; Leeds Creek, TA; Leonardtown, SM; Liberty Lake, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, GA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir, BA; Marriottsville, HO;

Martinak SP, CN; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; Mattawoman NEA, CH; McKee-Beshers WMA, MO; McKeldin Area PVSP, CL; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Milford Mill Park, BA; Morgan Run NEA, CL; Mount Calvert, PG; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mountain Lake Park, GA; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Myrtle Grove WMA, CH; Nanjemoy Creek, CH; National Arboretum, DC; New Germany SP, GA; Nolands Ferry, FR; North Beach, CT; North Branch, AL; North Point SP, BA; Oak Grove, CN; Oakland, CN or GA; Ocean City, WO; Ocean Pines, WO; Oxon Cove, PG/DC; Parsonsburg, WI; Patuxent River SP, HO; Pennyfield, MO; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Pleasant Valley, GA; Pocomoke Swamp, WO; Point Lookout SP, SM; Polish Mountain, AL; Pone Island, DO; Poplar Island, TA; Port Deposit, CE; Purse SP, CH; Pylesville, HA; Queenstown, QA; Rainbow Lake, FR; Randallstown, BA; Ridge, SM; Ridgely, CN; Rigby's Folly, TA; Rileys Lock, MO; River Terrace Park, DC; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rock Run, HA; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rocks SP, HA; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Roosevelt Island, DC; Rose Haven, AA; Rumbly Point, SO; Salisbury, WI; Sandgates, SM; Sandy Point SP, AA; Schooley Mill Park, HO; Scotland, SM; Selby Bay, PG; Seneca, MO; Silver Spring, MO; Smith Island, SO; Snow Hill, WO; Soldiers Delight, BA; Solomons, CT; South Marsh Island, SO; South Point, WO; Spring Island, DO; St. Michaels, TA; Sugarloaf Mountain, FR; Susquehanna SP, HA; Swallow Falls, GA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Sykesville, CL; Table Rock, GA; Tanyard, CN; Terrapin Nature Park, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Tilghman Island, TA; Town Hill, AL; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Trout Run WWTP, GA; Tuckahoe SP, CN/QA; Tunis Mills, TA; Turkey Point, CE; Upper Marlboro, PG; Vantage Point, HO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Washington Monument SP, WA; West Ocean City, WO; Western RP, HO; Westminster, CL; Wilde Lake, HO; Woodstock, HO; Wye Island, QA; Wye Research Center, QA.

## WINTER: DECEMBER 1, 2000–FEBRUARY 28, 2001

The mild early part of the season gave way to a series of snow storms from late December into January. Semi-hardy species which sometimes linger were pushed out.

**Loons, Grebes.** A **Red-throated Loon** was inland at Piney Run on Dec. 2-11 (Ringler +); one was off Calvert Cliffs on Dec. 22 (Harten). The high count of Red-throated Loons at Ocean City was 23 on Feb. 18 (Cribb). Offshore from Ocean City 77 **Common Loons** were seen on Dec. 9 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Stasz). Peak numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were 20 at Piney Run on Dec. 2 (Ringler) and 43 at Loch Raven on Dec. 10 (Jenkins). Numbers of **Horned Grebes** were low with the most reported from single locations being 21 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 2 (Pope) and 11 at Loch Raven on Dec. 10 (Jenkins). The only reports of **Red-necked Grebes** were of single birds in Calvert Co. at Chesapeake Beach (Shaffer) and Long Beach (Joe & Tim Mihursky) both on Jan. 14, and at Solomons on Feb. 19 (Perry).

**Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.** Chesapeake Bay reports of **Northern Gannets** were three adults at North Beach on Dec. 17 (Stasz) and two at Point Lookout on Jan. 13 with at least one there on Feb. 23 (Craig). An **American White Pelican** was seen at Jug Bay on Dec. 1 (Bystrak); an immature was found in a field near Salisbury on Dec. 29, captured by DNR Officer Joseph Cossaboom that day, and taken to the Salisbury Zoo for rehabilitation. A few **Brown Pelicans** persisted into the winter with one at Salisbury on Dec. 8 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Cove Point on Dec. 22 (Harten), single birds seen on the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 from Rum Pointe Golf Course, WO (N. & F. Saunders) and Assateague (Churchill), and two at Smith I. on Jan. 31 and four there on Feb. 8 (Cribb). Late inland were three **Double-crested**

**Cormorants** at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 2 and one there on Jan. 27 (Scarpulla). Other sightings were one at Sandy Point on Dec. 27 (Schreitz), one at Point Lookout on Jan. 3 (Craig), one on Triadelphia on Feb. 3 (Ron Polniaszek +), four at Hart-Miller on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla +), 79 on the Patuxent River off God's Grace Point, CT on Feb. 13 (Iliff, Gilbert), and one at Ocean Pines on Feb. 18 (N. & F. Saunders). Sightings of **Great Cormorants** away from Ocean City were one at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 2 (Scarpulla), four at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9 and one there on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla +), two at Ocean Pines on Dec. 9 (Jett, Brewer), two at Point Lookout on Jan. 3-11 (Craig), and two at North Beach on Jan. 30 (Stasz).

**Herons, Ibis, Vultures.** Few **American Bitterns** were reported: one at Assateague on Dec. 29 (Stasz), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA from Dec. 29 through Feb. 24 (Hafner, Powell, Stasz +), and two at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 4 (Dyke). Scarpulla and Blom counted 146 **Great Blue Herons** at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 31. Lingering **Great Egrets** seen on Dec. 3 were two flying over Bishopsville (Iliff, G. & H. Armistead), two at Blackwater (Kirkpatrick), and one at Upper Marlboro (Harten). One **Snowy Egret** remained at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 1-28 (Dyke +). The only **Little Blue Heron** of the season was seen at Bivalve on Jan. 30 (C. & D. Broderick). Wintering **Tricolored Herons** were 12 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 18 (Ringler +) and one at West Ocean City through Feb. 24 (Lovelace). Notable reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were one immature at Layhill on Dec. 30 (Wilkerson), 20 at the Washington Channel, DC on Jan. 1 (Bowen), eight at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 14 (N. & F. Saunders), three at Blackwater on Jan. 16 (Farner), and 27 at Smith I. on Feb. 28 (Cribb). The only report of **Glossy Ibis** was of two at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 18 (Ringler +). Concentrations of **Black Vultures** included 45 at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 2 (Scarpulla), 50 at Wrights Neck, QA on Dec. 22 (Poet), 30 at Layhill on Jan. 27 (N. & F. Saunders), 38 near Daisy on Feb. 14 (Tufts), and 70 in northeastern Dorchester Co. on Feb. 19 (H. Armistead). Unusual in Allegany County this season were four Black Vultures at North Branch on Dec. 17 (Churchill). A **Turkey Vulture** soaring over Oakland, GA on Jan. 31 (Pope) may have been an early migrant. Also in Garrett Co. were two Turkey Vultures in Pleasant Valley on Feb. 3 and 18, and two more over Oakland on Feb. 26 (Pope). About 135 Turkey Vultures were seen in northeastern Dorchester Co. on Feb. 19 (H. Armistead).

**Geese, Swans.** Reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were an immature flying over the Rachel Carson Conservation Area, MO on Dec. 16 (Sheppard), and single adults at Hains Point on Jan. 6-21 (Tumer +), Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 1-2 (Czaplak +), and at Constitution Gardens on the Mall in DC on Feb. 2-4 (Felley +). Inland **Snow Geese** were one at Broadford Lake on Dec. 2 and two there on Dec. 16 (Pope), three at Pylesville on Dec. 3 (J. Fry), three at Piney Run on Dec. 9-11 (Crabtree +), one blue morph at APL on Dec. 11 (C. Thompson Pardoe, Ebert), one near Lilypons on Jan. 8 (Fallon), one at Centennial on Jan. 11-24 (Ott), two near Daisy on Jan. 28 (Tufts), and, in Howard Co. on Feb. 3, two at Lake Elkhorn (Don Waugh), one at Lisbon (Arnold), and one blue at Triadelphia (Magnusson). Reports of **Ross's Geese** were three flying over E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), one at Hebron on Jan. 8 (C. & D. Broderick) and two there on Jan. 10 (Dyke), and one at Blackwater on Feb. 18-24 (Atwood +). Small race **Canada Geese** seen this winter were one at Hebron on Dec. 17-19 (Dyke), one at Assateague on Dec. 29 (Stasz), one at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 31 (Blom, Scarpulla), one at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 18 (H. Armistead), two near Queen Anne, QA on Feb. 18 (Stasz), and one near Centreville on Feb. 23 (Stasz). The only **Brant** reported from the Chesapeake Bay area were 12 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb). Doug Gill saw a "Black Brant" flying by the inlet at Ocean City on Dec. 28. Interesting reports of **Mute Swans** were 37 at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9 (Scarpulla +), one at Rewastico Pond, WI on Dec. 17 (Deward), one at Hallowing Point, CT on Jan. 1 (Hamilton), nine at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), 400 at Bloodsworth

I. on Jan. 23 (Rambo), and two at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 28 (Lawler). Notable concentrations of **Tundra Swans** were 2,500 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb) and 1,155 at Galestown, DO on Feb. 19 (H. Armistead); 19 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 27 (Day, Abrams) were notable inland. An unusual swan at Upper Marlboro from Jan. 9 through the end of the period (Shaffer +) was probably a hybrid, perhaps including Whooper Swan in its ancestry.

**Puddle Ducks.** Very late was a female **Wood Duck** at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 9 (Churchill). Wintering Wood Ducks included two at Rock Creek Park on Jan. 31 (Eric Raun) and 16 on the Howard Co. Winter Count on Feb. 3 (13 at Waterford Farm seen by Mark Wallace and three at UMCF seen by Mike McClure). Possible early migrants were three at Myrtle Grove on Feb. 9 (Hutchinson), four at Terrapin on Feb. 10 (Lev), two at Broad Creek (Shaffer) and two at Upper Marlboro (Stasz) on Feb. 14, two at Denton on Feb. 15 (L. T. Short), two at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 18 (H. Armistead), and two at Chicone Creek, DO on Feb. 19 (H. Armistead). **Gadwall** reports included 170 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1 (Brewer), 65 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 250 in the Potomac River, DC off Jones Point, Virginia on Jan. 1 (Pisano, Tumer), 525 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), and 58 at Perryville on Feb. 10 (Fisher). The two Gadwalls near Friendsville, GA on Feb. 17 (Churchill) were probably migrants. A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** and possibly a female also were at Assateague on Dec. 29 (Stasz) and one drake was at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 1 (Dyke). Notable numbers of **American Wigeons** were 80 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 85 at Assateague on Dec. 29 (Stasz), and 53 at Perryville on Feb. 10 (Fisher). Highs for **American Black Ducks** were 150 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 200 at Eagles Nest on Dec. 13 (Iliff, G. Armistead), 140 at Mount Calvert on Dec. 26 (Shaffer), 280 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), 381 at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 14 (Scarpulla), 500 at Broad Creek on Feb. 1 (Shaffer), and 100 at YRR on Feb. 17 (Churchill). Numbers of **Mallards** mounted to 250 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1 (Brewer), 350 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 300 at Bloodsworth I. on Jan. 23 (Rambo), 200 at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 25 (Shaffer), and 650 at Blackwater on Feb. 8 (H. Armistead). A hybrid American Black Duck X Mallard was at Liberty Lake, BA on Jan. 14 (Ringler). Lingering **Blue-winged Teals** were one female at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley) and two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 20 (Iliff, Hafner); one at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 28 (Lawler) was probably a spring migrant. **Northern Shovelers** remained in good numbers with 120 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1 (Brewer) and 175 at West Ocean City on Dec. 2 (Iliff). Brewer found 160 **Northern Pintails** at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1, but Cribb topped this with 1,800 at Smith I. on Jan. 1; 230 spring migrants were at Jug Bay on Feb. 23 (Bystrak). About 115 **Green-winged Teals** were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 3 (H. & G. Armistead, Iliff) and 40 were at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley). A drake Eurasian Green-winged Teal was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 21 (Iliff, Hafner).

**Diving Ducks.** High counts of **Canvasbacks** were 300 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 20 (Bryant Pomrenke), 1,500 at Cambridge on Feb. 17 (Atwood), 1,500 at Perryville on Feb. 17 (Watson-Whitmyre), 600 at West Ocean City on Feb. 19 (Fallon), and 202 in Goose Creek, PRNAS on Feb. 24 (Rambo). Interesting reports of **Redheads** were 24 at Centennial on Jan. 4-31 (Schwarz +), 28 at Four Mile Run on Jan. 7 (Hilton), 175 at Piscataway Creek on Feb. 9 (Hutchinson), 35 at Perryville on Feb. 10 (Fisher), and 250 at Hooper Island on Feb. 17 (Atwood). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 400 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1 (Brewer), 1,600 at Piney Run on Dec. 2 (Ringler), 500 at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 30 (N. & F. Saunders), 240 at Perryville on Feb. 10 (Fisher), and 202 at PRNAS on Feb. 24 (Rambo +). Interesting reports of **Greater Scaup** were 6,000 at Rose Haven on Dec. 17 (Stasz), three at Four Mile Run on Jan. 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 10 at Elliott on Jan. 14 (H. Armistead), 20 at Broad Creek on Jan. 27 (Shaffer), 150 at Bay Ridge, AA on Jan. 28 (N. & F. Saunders), 6,600

at Hart-Miller on Feb. 5 (Scarpulla +), and 60 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 17 (Fallon). There were 1,200 **Lesser Scaup** at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9 (Scarpulla +), 370 at Elliott on Jan. 14 (H. Armistead), and 200 at Broad Creek on Jan. 27 (Shaffer). A female **King Eider** was at Point Lookout on Jan. 11-18 (Craig +) and another female was at Ocean City on Feb. 1 (Eddie Slaughter). A female **Common Eider** was at Ocean City from Dec. 26 through Jan. 6 (Churchill +). A female **Harlequin Duck** was a big surprise at inland Little Seneca Lake from Dec. 1 through Feb. 4 (Barry & John Cooper +). Harlequins numbered five at Ocean City from Dec. 2 into the new year (Lovelace +) with numbers peaking at 12 (11 males and one female) on Feb. 19 (Cribb, Fallon). Unusual were two female **Surf Scoters** off Hains Point on Dec. 2 (Hilton, Shannon), one female at Jug Bay on Dec. 2 (Bystrak), and one at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 9-16 (Churchill +). Expected were 110 Surf Scoters at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb) and 300 at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig, Cribb). Notable **Black Scoters** were two off Hains Point on Dec. 2 (Pisano, Tumer) and one at Wenona, SO on Jan. 10 (Britt). A **Long-tailed Duck** at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 7 (Brewer) was unusual and 550 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb) was the highest count. Highs for **Buffleheads** were 131 at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 2 (Churchill), 2,000 at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), 150 at Perryville on Jan. 14 (N. & F. Saunders), 500 at Horsehead on Jan. 21 (Graff), and 500 at Bay Ridge, AA on Jan. 28 (N. & F. Saunders). The high for **Common Goldeneyes** was 498 at Hart-Miller on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla +). Highs for **Hooded Mergansers** were 80 at West Ocean City on Dec. 2 (Iliff), 25 at Broadford Lake and 25 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 2 (Pope), 58 at Loch Raven on Dec. 10 (Jenkins), 85 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 44 on the Susquehanna Flats off Spesutie I., HA on Dec. 21 (D. Webb), 70 at Four Mile Run and 20 on the Potomac River, DC off Jones Point, Virginia on Jan. 1 (Pisano, Tumer), 36 at Grove Neck on Feb. 2 (Fisher), and 42 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 24 (Fallon). The 2,000 **Common Mergansers** on Conowingo Lake, HA/CE on Dec. 11 (Powell) built up to 10,200 (only 200 females) on Jan. 14 (Scarpulla +). Other interesting reports of Common Mergansers were three at Salisbury on Dec. 7 (Dyke), four flying over Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig), 75 at Broad Creek on Jan. 27 (Shaffer), 415 at Blackwater on Feb. 8 (H. Armistead), 60 at Nanjemoy Creek on Feb. 15 (Callahan), 90 at Piscataway Creek on Feb. 21 (Shaffer), and 183 at Jug Bay on Feb. 27 (Bystrak). Highs for **Ruddy Ducks** were 8,000 at Jefferson Patterson Park on Dec. 19 (Ripley) and 2,300 at PRNAS on Jan. 5 (Rambo).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Late **Ospreys** were one at Perryville on Dec. 2 (Fisher) and one at Bishopville on Dec. 3 (H. & G. Armistead, Iliff). Likely early spring migrant Ospreys were single birds at Tanyard on Jan. 29 (Engle), Bridge Creek on Feb. 3 (C. & D. Broderick), Upper Marlboro on Feb. 18 (Bystrak, Ricciardi), and Metro Bridge in DC on Feb. 23 (Pisano). An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen carrying a stick at Daniels on Jan. 6 (Chuck Mushinsky); notable inland reports were an adult at Lilypons on Dec. 15 (D. Burggraf), one at Greenbrier SP on Dec. 19 (Weesner), three at Black Hill RP on Feb. 10 (Sussman), and one at Rocky Gap on Dec. 17 (Churchill). Reports of **Northern Goshawks** were single adults on Dec. 31 in Harford Co. at Darlington (Blom) and Churchville (Arnold), an immature in DC on Jan. 1-3 (Pisano, Tumer +), an adult near McKee-Beshers on Jan. 11 (Simonson), and one at Crofton on Jan. 31 (Shaffer). Bonnie Ott noted a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** courting at Rockburn on Jan. 17. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen at Tower Gardens, QA on Feb. 18 (Davidson, Wierenga); the mantle of the bird was mostly white. Reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** away from the marshes of the Lower Eastern Shore were one at Federal Hill, AL on Dec. 22 (Churchill), one at North Branch on Jan. 3 (Churchill), one light morph near Frostburg, AL on Jan. 6 (Stasz), one light morph at Pickell Hill, GA on Jan. 6 (Stasz), one in southeastern Frederick Co. on Jan. 7 (N. & F. Saunders), one dark morph near Vale Summit, AL on Jan. 28 (Churchill), one in Prince George's Co. on Feb. 4 (N. & F. Saunders), a light morph near

Crofton on Feb. 19 (Shaffer), and one near Grantsville on Feb. 26 (G. Miller). Reports of **Golden Eagles** were two immatures at Conowingo Dam, CE on Dec. 2 and one through Dec. 9 (Fisher +), four at Blackwater on Dec. 3 (Kirkpatrick), one at McKee-Beshers on Jan. 28 (Woodward), an adult and an immature at Decoursey Bridge, DO on Feb. 18 (Dyke), and one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 18 (N. & F. Saunders). Four **Merlins** at Hains Point on Jan. 1 (Pisano, Tumer) topped all reports for that species; others of note were one at Appeal, CT on Jan. 14 (Craig, Bishop) and one at Denton on Feb. 19 (Nuttle).

*Turkeys, Rallids, Cranes, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets.* The best reports of **Wild Turkeys** were 25 at Cheltenham, PG on Dec. 9 (Jett, Brewer), 21 near Lilypons on Dec. 15 (D. Burggraf), nine near Westover, SO on Jan. 6 (Arnold), 12 at Hugg-Thomas WMA, HO on Feb. 3 (D. & M. Harvey), and 25 near Leonardtown on Feb. 14 (Craig). Cribb found 10 **Clapper Rails** and three **Virginia Rails** at Smith I. on Feb. 28, and Churchill reported one **King Rail** at Byrdtown, SO on Dec. 27. Estimates of **American Coots** were 180 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 1 (Brewer), 360 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 9 (Churchill), 500 at Piney Run on Dec. 11 (Ringler, Costley), 350 at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 30 (N. & F. Saunders), and 1,000 on the Potomac River, DC off Jones Point, Virginia on Jan. 1 (Pisano, Tumer). A **Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over Jug Bay on Jan. 7 (Bystrak) and one visited Kent Point on Feb. 2-15 (Schindler +). A **Black-bellied Plover** lingered at Elliott on Dec. 2 (H. Armistead). About 180 **Killdeer** were near Oak Grove on Dec. 3 (Lovelace). Cribb found two **American Oystercatchers** at Smith I. on Feb. 7. An **American Avocet** was at Nanjemoy Creek on Dec. 17 (Jett) and another was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Stasz, Hafner).

*Sandpipers.* Post-CBC **Greater Yellowlegs** included two at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), 13 at Elliott on Jan. 14 (H. Armistead), 26 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 1 (Dyke), four at Blackwater on Feb. 4 (Lovelace), and one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Fehskens). **Lesser Yellowlegs** of note were one at Loch Raven on Dec. 15 (Lev), eight at Rumbly Point on Jan. 6 (Arnold), six at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 1 (Dyke), and four at Cedartown, WO on Feb. 8 (Iliff). The only **Willet** reported was at Eagles Nest on Dec. 13 (Iliff, G. Armistead). Bob Mumford found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Blockhouse Point, MO on Jan. 6. Two **Red Knots** that had been present since December remained at Ocean City through Jan. 22 (Maloney). Post-CBC **Sanderlings** included 89 at PRNAS on Jan. 7 (Craig) and 300 at Smith I. on Jan. 29 (Cribb). Arnold found a **Least Sandpiper** at Rumbly Point on Jan. 6. Counts of **Dunlin** included 2,000 in the South Point area of Worcester Co. on Dec. 2 (Iliff), 3,000 at Blackwater on Dec. 9 (Jett, Brewer), 260 in Marumsco Creek, SO on Dec. 27 (Stasz), and 400 at PRNAS on Feb. 28 (Craig). Greg Miller reported a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Elliott I. on Feb. 26 and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell). Dyke found two unidentified dowitchers at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Dec. 18. Reports of **American Woodcock** included six near Nanticoke, WI on Jan. 2 (C. & D. Broderick) and three at Centennial on Feb. 17 (Ott).

*Gulls, Terns, Razorbills.* Late **Laughing Gulls** were two near Oak Grove on Dec. 3 (Lovelace), five at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 10 (N. & F. Saunders), one at the Cecil County Landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla), and one near Lilypons on Dec. 17 (Mozurkewich, Schwarz). None was reported after the CBCs. The only **Little Gulls** seen were an adult off Ocean City on Dec. 9 (Stasz, Iliff, G. Armistead) and an immature at Ocean City on Feb. 17-23 (P. Webb +). The only **Black-headed Gull** of the season was an adult seen at Scotland Beach, Point Lookout SP on Dec. 23 (Rambo, Cribb). The only inland **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Liberty Lake on Jan. 14 (Ringler). Unusual far inland on Jan. 7 were 38 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Cumberland (Stasz). Reports of **Thayer's Gulls** were an adult at Conowingo Dam from Dec.

31 through Jan. 13 (Scarpulla, Blom +), a first-winter bird at Hains Point on Jan. 7 (Czaplak, Abrams), and an adult at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 30 (Abrams). Single first-winter **Iceland Gulls** were seen at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 7 (Scarpulla), Jug Bay on Jan. 11 (D. Mumford, Ripley, Ricciardi, Chris Swarth), the Tidal Basin from Jan. 21 through Feb. 3 (Czaplak +), Upper Marlboro on Jan. 26 (Stasz, Shaffer), Ocean City on Feb. 12-18 (Iliff +), and Berlin on Feb. 17 (Dyke); a second-winter bird was at Fredericktown, CE on Feb. 10 (McCandless, Maurice Barnhill). Notable among **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were two at Anacostia Park on Dec. 2 (Pisano, Tumer), four at Salisbury on Dec. 12 (Iliff, G. Armistead), six at the Cecil County Landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla), three at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 24 (Scarpulla, Blom, Cheicante), two at Smith I. on Jan. 4 (Cribb), eight at Hains Point on Jan. 7 (Abrams), two at Jug Bay on Jan. 11 (D. Mumford, Ripley, Ricciardi), and five at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (N. & F. Saunders). Single first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** were at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 8 (Stasz) and near Berlin on Feb. 14 (C. & D. Broderick). Cribb found 280 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Smith I. on Jan. 4. The **Kelp Gull** remained at Sandgates through the period (Kostenko +). Stasz, Iliff, and George Armistead saw 14 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** off Ocean City on Dec. 9. Though 360 **Forster's Terns** were seen at Eagles Nest on Dec. 13 (Iliff, G. Armistead), only one was found on the Ocean City CBC on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A single Forster's Tern was seen at Leonardtown on Jan. 31 (Craig) and on Feb. 18 (Bystrak, Ricciardi). Two **Razorbills** were seen at Ocean City beginning Feb. 16 (Iliff +) and three were there from the 23<sup>rd</sup> through Mar. 3 (C. & D. Broderick +).

*Doves, Owls, Hummingbirds.* Stasz noted **Mourning Doves** singing on Jan. 30 at North Beach and Upper Marlboro. A **Barn Owl** was seen at Patuxent River SP on Feb. 3-18 (Sheppard +) and one was at Smith I. on Feb. 14 (Cribb). The **Snowy Owl** near Adamstown remained through Feb. 1 (Karen Kunz +). Another Snowy Owl was seen at Hart-Miller from Nov. 10 through Dec. 6 (*fide* Scarpulla), one was nearby at Edgewood Area of APG on Dec. 3 (*fide* Eastman), and one was photographed at the Rayburn Building in DC in early December (*fide* Greg Gough). **Short-eared Owls** included nine at Elliott I. on Dec. 2 (H. Armistead), four at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9, two of which remained through Feb. 10 (Scarpulla +), one at Aaron Run on Dec. 9 (Churchill), one at Salisbury on Dec. 17 (C. & D. Broderick), four at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 10 (Britt), and seven at Shorters Wharf, DO on Feb. 18 (Atwood). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard at Kent Point on Feb. 3 (Stasz), at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 26-27 (Shaffer), and near Cranesville Swamp on Feb. 27 (Pope). The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** coming to a feeder in White Plains, CH was last seen on Dec. 4 (Jett). The **Rufous Hummingbird** at Cambridge remained through Dec. 22 (I. McLaughlin +) and the one at Bishopville stayed through Jan. 1 (Deward +).

*Flycatchers, Shrikes, Vireo, Ravens, Larks, Swallows.* Wintering **Eastern Phoebes** blending into early spring migrants included one at McKee-Beshers through Jan. 28 (Woodward), one at Riley's Lock on Feb. 3 (Bryant Pomrenke), seven on the Howard Co. Winter Bird Count on Feb. 3 (*fide* Solem), one at Myrtle Grove on Feb. 9 (Hutchinson), two at Dameron on Feb. 12 (Craig), one at Indian Head on Feb. 13 (Hutchinson), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 18 (Fallon), one at Triadelphia, HO on Feb. 19 (Schwarz), one at Cromwell Valley Park on Feb. 20 (McDonald), and one at Baltimore Corner, CN on Feb. 27 (Fallon). A **Western Kingbird** was reported at Eastern Neck on Jan. 7 (*fide* Phil Davis). No **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported. Single adult **Northern Shrikes** were found at Cumberland from Dec. 29 through Jan. 4 (Paulus), near McKee-Beshers on Jan. 1-7 (Czaplak +), and at PRNAS from Jan. 29 through Mar. 20 (Rambo +). A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at Williston, CN on Dec. 16 (Engle, Irene Wheatley). Three **Common Ravens** were seen at Sugarloaf on Jan. 1 (N. & F. Saunders) and seven were in southeastern Garrett Co. on Jan. 6 (Stasz). Abrams and Day

estimated 1,000 **Horned Larks** near Lilypons on Jan. 27 and 200 were near Ridgely on Dec. 28 (Kathie Lambert). Reports of **Tree Swallows** included eight at Wetipquin Creek, WI on Dec. 17 (Dyke), one at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 10 (Britt), two at Blackwater on Feb. 17 (Fallon), and three at the Oxbow Reserve, AA on Feb. 26 (Maloney).

*Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Robins, Mimids.* **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Brown Creepers** were scarce this winter. The only **House Wrens** reported after the CBCs were in St. Mary's Co.: one at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig) and one at Jacob's Farm on Feb. 18 (Bystrak, Ricciardi). No **Sedge Wrens** or **Marsh Wrens** were reported after the CBCs. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in good numbers. Single **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Spesutie I., HA on Dec. 3 (Greg Futral) and Carderock, MO on Jan. 2 (Czaplak). Callahan estimated 400 **American Robins** at Grayton on Jan. 30 and 600 were at South Point on Feb. 8 (Simone Jenion). Notable wintering **Gray Catbirds** were one at North Branch on Jan. 6 (Stasz), two at Easton on Jan. 24 and two at Tunis Mills on Jan. 29 (Roslund), and one at Centennial on Feb. 26 (Ott). Wintering **Brown Thrashers** included two at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig, Cribb), two at PRNAS on Feb. 4 (Craig), and two at Eastern Neck on Feb. 25 (Parke John).

*Warblers.* Sightings of **Orange-crowned Warblers** included one at the Tidal Basin on Dec. 5-11 (Bowen +), one at Mount Vernon, SO from Dec. 17 through Jan. 4 (Iliff +), and one at PRNAS on Feb. 4-13 (Craig, Bishop +). A **Nashville Warbler** was at Blinkhorn Creek near Hurlock from Jan. 14 through Mar. 7 (Charlotte & Bill Diedrich +). Wintering **Pine Warblers** included two at Dameron from Jan. 2 through Feb. 27 (Craig) and four near Chincoteague from Jan. 18 through Feb. 21 (T. & C. Dew). **Palm Warblers** after the CBCs were a yellow subspecies at Easton on Jan. 24 (Roslund), a western at Bayview, WO on Feb. 8 (Iliff), one at Scotland on Feb. 18 (Bystrak, Ricciardi), and one at Wye Research Center on Feb. 21 (Poet). Sightings of **Common Yellowthroats** were one at Jug Bay on Dec. 3 (Bystrak), three at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9 (Scarpulla +), one at Ridgely on Dec. 16 (Stasz), one at Selby's Landing, PG on Dec. 22 (Harten), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), one at Kenilworth Park on Jan. 6 (Pisano), and one at the Choptank River Bridge, TA on Jan. 26 (Poet). Reports of **Wilson's Warblers** were single birds at Conowingo Dam, HA on Dec. 2-26 (Tom Hopson), Ilchester, HO from Dec. 5 through Jan. 20 (Janet Lydon +), near Oriole Landing, CT on Dec. 31 (Andy Brown +), and Roosevelt Island on Jan. 11 (Bill Young). Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at Ocean City on Dec. 1 (Lev), Highview on the Bay, AA on Dec. 17 (Ricciardi), Assateague on Dec. 23 (Ralph Wright), and Point Lookout on Jan. 25 or 26 (Bowen).

*Towhee, Sparrows.* Ray Kiddy saw a **Green-tailed Towhee** at North Branch on Jan. 1. Post-CBC **Chipping Sparrows** included four at Beauvue on Jan. 5 (Craig), six at Layhill on Jan. 8 (Cooper), 10 at Wye Research Center on Jan. 8 (Poet), one at Perryville on Jan. 14 (N. & F. Saunders), two at Darnestown, MO on Jan. 20 (Schindler), 10 at Turf Valley, HO on Feb. 3 (Schwarz), and 20 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 18 (Fallon). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were seen at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 8-24 (Iliff +), and three were there on the 18<sup>th</sup> (N. & F. Saunders, Fallon). A **Vesper Sparrow** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 18 (Fallon) was the only one reported outside the CBCs. **Savannah Sparrows** were plentiful in Howard Co. on the Feb. 3 winter count with 37 at UMCF (M. & G. McClure) and 28 at Alpha Ridge (Cullison). Another 140 Savannahs were found at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Fehskens). Very rare in winter, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 8-24 (Iliff +). At least one **Le Conte's Sparrow** continued at E. A. Vaughn WMA through the end of the period and three were there on Feb. 8-19 (Iliff +). Another Le Conte's was seen at Beltsville from Feb. 15 through Mar. 13 (Fallon +). Four **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were at E.

A. Vaughn WMA from Dec. 29 through Feb. 24 (Stasz +); three **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were also there on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Fehskens). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at Beltsville on Jan. 1 (Richard Orr). An immature **Harris's Sparrow** was reported near Laytonsville on Dec. 16 (Gill). Highs for **White-crowned Sparrows** were 45 at North Branch on Jan. 3 (Churchill), 25 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Feb. 18 (N. & F. Saunders), and 40 at Chesapeake Farms on Feb. 25 (John). The only Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow reported was one continuing at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 3 (Iliff, H. & G. Armistead).

**Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Dickcissels, Icterids. Lapland Longspur** flocks included 15 near Lilypons on Dec. 11 (Iliff), 50 at PRNAS on Jan. 2, where only four remained on Feb. 24 (Rambo), and eight near Ridgely on Feb. 16 (Poet). Flocks of **Snow Buntings** were 14 at Sandy Point SP on Dec. 9 (Schreitz), 127 at Hart-Miller on Dec. 9 (Scarpulla +), 15 near Lilypons on Jan. 14 (David Bridge), 40 at PRNAS on Jan. 20 (Rambo +), and six at Hurlock on Feb. 14-15 (Iliff); smaller numbers were two at Rocky Gap on Dec. 17 (Churchill), one at Beltsville on Jan. 4 (Peter Osenton), one at Fort McHenry on Jan. 29 (Bob Rineer), and one near Centreville on Feb. 23 (Stasz). Reports of **Dickcissels** were an immature near Brookeville, MO on Dec. 16 (Marshall Howe, Dick Zusi), one at Sykesville on Jan. 21 (D. & M. Harvey), and two at Blackwater on Feb. 19 (N. & F. Saunders). The only report of **Brewer's Blackbird** was an adult male near Laytonsville on Dec. 16 (Gill). Concentrations of **Boat-tailed Grackles** included 100 at Bloodsworth I. on Jan. 23 (Rambo) and 300 at Smith I. on Feb. 7 (Cribb). Wintering **Baltimore Orioles** were one at PWRC from Dec. 19 through Jan. 1 (Greg Gough +), one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Feb. 1-5 (T. Bell), one at Fenwick, CH from Feb. 17 through March 4 (Bob Lukinic +), and one at Indian Head from Feb. 27 into the spring (Ghebelian).

**Exotics.** Three **Greylag Geese** were at Piney Run on Dec. 2-11 and two remained through Jan. 14; two hybrids of Greylag X Canada Goose were also present on Dec. 2 (Ringler). A **Black Swan** was at Denton on Dec. 16 (Steve Westre) and two were at Smith I. on Feb. 7-14 (Cribb). A **Muscovy Duck** was at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 7 (Scarpulla). The **Silver Gull** at Brown's Station Landfill was seen again on Dec. 4 (Halpin). Carl Hull hosted a **European Greenfinch** at his feeder near Hancock, WA from Feb. 5 through Mar. 21.

## SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1–MAY 31, 2001

With few frontal systems passing through the region this spring there were no major fallouts of passerines. Mild conditions allowed many migrants to enter the state earlier than usual.

**Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters.** A high of 250 **Red-throated Loons** was seen at Ocean City on Apr. 27 (Reese); one was on the Gunpowder River, HA on Apr. 9 (Iliff, Hafner) and two were there on the 12<sup>th</sup> (Powell), one was at Hart-Miller on Apr. 14 (Scarpulla), and a late bird was at Ocean City on May 22 (Lawler). An adult **Pacific Loon** was at Ocean City on May 15-25 (Iliff, G. Armistead +). A **Common Loon** at Brighton Dam on Mar. 11 (Schwarz, Zeichner +) and the six at Point Lookout on Mar. 15 (Craig) were probably signs of spring migration. About 300 Common Loons were on the Gunpowder River, HA on Apr. 12 (Powell) and 147 migrants were counted at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 13 (Ricciardi +). A late Common Loon was at Little Meadows Lake on June 4 (Yoder) and one was at Solomons on June 6 (Hamilton). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at Greenbrier SP on May 26 (Weesner) was exceptionally

late for a migrant. Highs for **Horned Grebes** were 300 off Blue Plains on the Potomac River on Mar. 26 (Mozurkewich), 100 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 1 (Ricciardi +), and 400 at PRNAS on Apr. 13 (Rambo); one lingered on the Potomac River in DC on May 25 (Pisano) and another at Fort Smallwood to May 27 (Ricciardi). Rare this spring was a **Red-necked Grebe** at Solomons on Apr. 6-7 (Bud Millsaps +). Reports of **Eared Grebes** were one on the Susquehanna River off Bald Friar, CE on Mar. 20 (Hafner, Powell), one at Hart-Miller on Mar. 24 (Scarpulla), two at Lapidum on Mar. 25 and one through the 31<sup>st</sup> (Blom, Monk +), and one at North Beach on Apr. 8 (Stasz). Two **Greater Shearwaters** seen from Ocean City on May 24 (D. Mumford, Baker) were extraordinary. Single **Sooty Shearwaters** were seen there on May 17-20 (John Pilgrim +).

*Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* Chesapeake Bay sightings of **Northern Gannets** on Mar. 13 were one off Rigby's Folly (H. Armistead), 13 in Tangier Sound, SO (Cribb), and one off Flag Ponds (Ripley); others were 12 at PRNAS on Mar. 14 (Rambo) and two at Point Lookout on Apr. 8 (Craig, Bishop). Reese estimated 350 gannets moving past Ocean City on Apr. 27 and a late one was there on May 23 (Balestri). An **American White Pelican** was at Havre de Grace on Apr. 13-15 (Alice Hirvonen +) and another was reportedly seen on May 21-22 on the Potomac River below Shepherdstown, West Virginia putting it in Washington Co. (*fide* Dianne Ingram). The earliest **Brown Pelicans** of the year were six at Smith I. on Mar. 22 (Cribb) and two off Elliott on Mar. 25 (H. Armistead), but one on the Nanticoke River at Bridge Creek on Apr. 15 (C. & D. Broderick) was unusually far upriver; one was feeding off Flag Ponds on May 29 (Ripley). Concentrations of **Double-crested Cormorants** included 150 at Cobb Neck, CH on Mar. 10 (Jett, Brewer), 500 at Point Lookout on Apr. 8 (Craig, Bishop), 500 at Ocean City on Apr. 27 (Reese), and 270 off the Bay Hundred Peninsula, TA on May 12 (Reese); an early migrant in Garrett Co. was flying over Broadford Lake on Mar. 19 (Pope) and 35 circling over Randallstown on Apr. 13 (Ringler) were an oddity. Lingering **Great Cormorants** were two at Elms Beach on Apr. 3 (Craig), an adult at North Point Creek, BA on May 13 (Scarpulla), and a sub-adult at Ocean City on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner).

*Herons, Ibises, Vultures.* The only reports of **American Bittern** were one at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 24 (Arnold) and Apr. 13 (C. & D. Broderick, J. & F. Juriga), one at Scotland on Apr. 10 (Craig, Cribb), one at UMCF on Apr. 14 (Ott +), two at Big Pool on Apr. 19 (Eanes), one at Meadowbrook on Apr. 21 (Cullison +), one at Courthouse Point WMA, CE on May 1 (Fisher), and one at KAG on May 2-4 (Bowen, Paul +). A **Least Bittern** was at UMCF on May 2 (Ott, Solem, Holdridge) one was heard at North Point SP on May 4 (Jenkins), and one was at McKee-Beshers on May 29 (Woodward). Ricciardi reported 18 **Great Blue Herons** migrating past Fort Smallwood on Mar. 17 in the fog. The earliest **Great Egrets** of the season were one at Kent Narrows on Mar. 19 (Poet), one at Horsehead on Mar. 20 (Maloney), one at Smith I. on Mar. 22 (Cribb), three at Assateague on Mar. 24 (Arnold), and one at Vantage Point on Mar. 25 (Zeichner, Chestem). Willey counted 57 Great Egrets coming to roost at Blackwater on Mar. 30 and 204 on May 4. Other Great Egrets were one at Big Pool on May 4 (William Leigh), and on May 31 three at Lilypons (Balestri) and one at Upper Marlboro (Stasz). A **Snowy Egret** and a **Little Blue Heron** at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 20 (C. & D. Broderick) may have wintered locally or have been early migrants. Otherwise, the earliest Snowy Egrets were two at Queenstown on Mar. 24 (Poet), three at Ridge on Apr. 5 (Craig), and one at North Beach on Apr. 6 (Shaffer), and the first Little Blue Heron was an adult at Blackwater on Apr. 1 (Willey, H. Armistead). Willey counted 49 Snowies at Blackwater on May 4. A calico Little Blue Heron was at Lilypons on May 4 (D. Burggraf). A **Tricolored Heron** was at Elms Beach on Apr. 16 (Craig); one at KAG on May 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper +)

was rare in DC. Cribb saw 60 **Cattle Egrets** at Parsonsburg on Mar. 18 and one at Scotland on Apr. 5, four were at Smithville, CN on Apr. 8 (Scudder), one at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 10 (Shaffer), 22 were at Blackwater on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead), one at West Potomac Park, DC on Apr. 15 (Pisano), and seven were at Dameron on Apr. 29 (Craig, Bishop); the only ones on the Piedmont were at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 20 (Neri +) and in the median strip of Interstate 95 in Harford Co. on May 4 (Larkin). A Cattle Egret at East Potomac Park was late in DC on May 27 (Pisano). An early **Green Heron** was at Meadowbrook on Apr. 1 (Ott, Holdridge) and one was in Frederick Co. on Apr. 6 (Stauffer Miller +). There were 10 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Smith I. on Mar. 12 (Cribb), two were at Cumberland on Apr. 4-7 and one there through the 10th (Perry +), and one was at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 21 (Arnold, Neri). A record-early **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Smith I. on Mar. 12 (Cribb); other reports were an adult at West Ocean City on Apr. 2 (Iliff), seven at Wyman Park, BC on Apr. 14 (E. & N. Kirschbaum), one near Kensington, MO on Apr. 28 (Pedro Saavedra), an adult at Lake Elkhorn on May 9 (J. Coskren), and two at Lilypons on May 28 (Arnold). March reports of **Glossy Ibis** were two at Blackwater on the 15th (H. Armistead), four at Jug Bay on the 17<sup>th</sup> (Bystrak), one at PRNAS on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (Atwood +), one at Smith I. on the 22nd (Cribb), and one at Deal Island WMA on the 24th (Arnold). Later Glossies west of the Bay were six at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 5 (Ricciardi +), one at Mount Calvert on Apr. 10 (Shaffer), two at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 15 (David Bridge), one at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns), two at Fulton on Apr. 30 and May 1 (Kathy Mariano +), one at Lakeside on May 5 (Larkin), and two at Harford Glen on May 6 (Chris Manning). Harry Armistead counted 39 **Black Vultures** in one kettle at Blackwater on Mar. 15.

**Geese, Swans, Puddle Ducks.** There were 4,850 **Snow Geese** (including 350 blues) in Dorchester Co. on Mar. 11 with about 2,500 at Hurlock and the rest at Blackwater (H. Armistead) and 2,000 at Federalsburg on Mar. 24 (Reese). A **Ross's Goose** was at Hurlock on Mar. 11 (H. Armistead). Seven **Brant** at Ocean City on May 23 (Ringler +) were late. At least 42 **Mute Swans** was a local high count near Scotland on Apr. 10 (Cribb, Craig). The unidentified swan at Upper Marlboro remained through Mar. 23 (Stasz). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at West Ocean City on Mar. 1 (Lawler). Ott saw 65 **American Wigeons** near Daisy on Mar. 12. A hybrid male **American Black Duck X Mallard** was at Hart-Miller from Mar. 11 through May 5 (Scarpulla +), one was at Point Lookout on Mar. 15 (Craig), and another male hybrid was paired with a female **Mallard** at Blackwater on Mar. 25 (H. Armistead +). The first **Blue-winged Teals** of the season were two at Jug Bay on Mar. 12 (Bystrak), two at PRNAS on Mar. 14 (Rambo), three at Daniels on Mar. 14 (Cullison), two at Seneca on Mar. 18 (Eberly), and three at Horsehead on Mar. 20 (Maloney); a late bird was at Aspen Run, CL on May 23 (Tarbell). High for **Northern Shovelers** was 75 at Blackwater on Mar. 25 (H. Armistead). A late **Northern Pintail** was in a wet field near Oak Grove on Apr. 18 (Lovelace). Highs for **Green-winged Teal** were 51 at Loch Raven on Mar. 15 (Lev) and 140 at Tanyard on Apr. 2 (Iliff); late were one at Centennial on May 17 (Schwarz) and one at Kinder Farm Park on May 23 (Farner).

**Diving Ducks.** Ricciardi estimated 4,000 **Canvasbacks** on Hines Ponds at Venice on the Bay, AA on Mar. 1; a high inland count of 38 was made at Piney Run on Mar. 11 (Ringler, Terry) and a late bird was at Cambridge on May 19 (G. Armistead, Iliff, Hafner). High numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** were 75 at Breeze Point WWTP, CH on Mar. 10 (Jett, Brewer), 47 at Blackwater on Mar. 11-25 (H. Armistead), and 65 at Pylesville on Mar. 31 (J. & L. Fry). A leucistic Ring-neck was at Centennial on Mar. 21 (Schwarz) and a late bird was at Cove Point on May 12 (Ripley). On Mar. 11 Jett and Brewer estimated 4,500 **Greater Scaup** off Chapman's Forest, CH and Scarpulla estimated 25,000 at Hart-Miller; unusual inland were

seven at Rocky Gap on Mar. 9 (Kiddy), a female at Centennial on Mar. 11 (J. Coskren), 39 at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 13 (Weesner), two at Pylesville on Apr. 1-2 (J. & L. Fry), and a male at Centennial on Apr. 2-19 (Schwarz). At least 40 Greaters were on the Gunpowder River, HA on Mar. 26 (Powell), three late birds were at Sandy Point on May 14 (Gilbert), and one was at Cambridge on May 17 (G. Armistead). A female **Common Eider** was seen at Ocean City on Mar. 24 (Arnold). Seven **Harlequin Ducks** remained at Ocean City on Mar. 25 (Czaplak, Todd) and one on Mar. 31 (Sanford +). A Harlequin Duck was sighted at Point Lookout on Mar. 3 (Rambo) and an adult male was there on Apr. 23-24 (Andrew Gilbert +). An adult female **Black Scoter** with an injured wing was at Cumberland on May 25 (Paulus); 600 were at Ocean City on Apr. 20 (Reese). Rare on the Susquehanna River, six **Surf Scoters** were seen off Lapidum on Mar. 19-25 and three **Long-tailed Ducks** on Mar. 19-20 (Hafner +). There were 3,530 Surf Scoters off Rigby's Folly on Mar. 31 with five lingering on May 28 (H. Armistead) and other late birds were two at Poplar I. on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner) and one at Ocean City on May 23 (Ringler +). Rambo saw six **White-winged Scoters** on Mar. 3 at Point Lookout and Reese saw 12 on Mar. 8 at Ocean City; late were three at Poplar I. on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner). About 2,000 Black Scoters were at Ocean City on Mar. 31 (Sanford +). Inland, 11 Long-tailed Ducks were at Rocky Gap on Mar. 13 (Kiddy) and five at Greenbrier SP the same day and two were there on Apr. 3 (Weesner), and one at Triadelphia on Mar. 15 (Solem) and Mar. 26 (Holbrook); one was off Blue Plains with 100 **Buffleheads** on Mar. 26 (Mozurkewich). About 500 Buffleheads and 200 **Common Goldeneyes** were at Perryville on Mar. 12 (Blom, Monk); 110 Buffleheads were at PRNAS on Mar. 27 (Craig) and 200 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 1 (Ricciardi +). A late female Bufflehead was at Aspen Run, CL through May 24 (Tarbell) and a male was on the Potomac River near Roosevelt Island on May 25 (Stephen Jones). There were 75 **Hooded Mergansers** and 100 **Common Mergansers** at Piney Run on Mar. 3 (Ringler). At McKee-Beshers on May 1 Homan saw a female Hooded Merganser with about six downy young. A high of 409 Common Mergansers was at Triadelphia on Mar. 17 (Magnusson) and 44 were at Martinak SP on Mar. 18 (Harvey & Marian Mudd). Two late Common Mergs were on Broad Creek on Apr. 30 (Mozurkewich). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** at Ridgely on Mar. 17 (H. & G. Armistead) was a rarity there; about 60 were at Hays Beach, SM on Mar. 22 (Craig). The last large flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** this spring were 1,500 at Breton Bay, SM on Mar. 16 (Craig) and 2,120 off Elliott I. on Mar. 25 and 1,600 still present on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Craig saw 10 **Ospreys** at Allens Fresh and two at Leonardtown on Mar. 2. An Osprey was nest-building at Conowingo Dam on Mar. 19 (Hafner). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen over Pickering Creek on May 5 (George Ratcliff +). The Fort Smallwood hawkwatch recorded 11 **Mississippi Kites** for the season (see Table 1); others were one at Annapolis on May 11 (D. Mumford), one at Ridge on May 15 (Cribb), one at PWRC on May 17-18 (Deanna Dawson +), one over Selby's Landing, PG on May 22 (Bystrak), one at Leakin Park in Baltimore on May 27 (Ringler, Terry, E. & P. Kreiss), and one at Cornfield Harbor on June 3 (Craig, Bishop). Paulus saw two migrating **Bald Eagles** at Town Hill on Mar. 17 and an immature over Cumberland on May 31; an adult was at Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 4 (Pope). Droege found an active **Sharp-shinned Hawk** nest at Soldiers Delight on May 4; extraordinarily late migrants were one at Salisbury on May 19 (Iliff, Hafner) and one at Wye Research Center on May 30 (Poet). Eanes found a **Cooper's Hawk** nest at Sandy Point SP on April 12. On Mar. 11 Bystrak saw an adult **Northern Goshawk** at Jug Bay. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was nest-building at Rileys Lock on Mar. 18 (Sussman). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 8 (Huy) and the only large number reported was 317 at Ellicott City on Apr. 13 (Ott). The last reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** were single dark morph birds at Elliott I. on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead) and at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 14 (Dyke,

C. & D. Broderick). Paulus counted nine adult **Golden Eagles** passing Town Hill on Mar. 17; an adult remained at Blackwater to Mar. 25 (H. Armistead +) and one was seen at California on Apr. 9 (Rambo). Single **Merlins** were near Bellevue, TA on Mar. 16 (G. Armistead, Iliff), Brown's Station Landfill on Mar. 29 (Shaffer), at Fort McHenry on Apr. 4 (Costley), at Centennial on Apr. 5-6 (Ott), at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 6 (Wilkinson), at Black Marsh, BA on Apr. 7 (Schwarz), at PRNAS on Apr. 13 (Rambo), at UMCF on Apr. 14 (Ott +), at Glen Echo, MO on Apr. 14 (F. Powers), at Ellicott City on May 6 (Ott), and Pope saw single Merlins near Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 16 and at Mt. Nebo WMA on Apr. 19. A **Peregrine Falcon** off Cove Point on Apr. 10 (Wanda Cole) may have been prospecting for a nesting site.

*Turkeys, Bobwhites, Rallids.* Reese saw 24 **Wild Turkeys** at Cambridge on Mar. 10 and Fred Burgraf saw about 60 near Church Creek on Mar. 17 indicating that the species is doing very well in Dorchester Co. An oddity in DC was a Wild Turkey on Roosevelt Island on Apr. 6 (Scott Wiedmann). The only Piedmont reports of **Northern Bobwhite** were two at McKee-Beshers on Apr. 14 (Jason Waanders) and one at Rockburn on May 5 (Ott, Solem). A Bobwhite heard near Swallow Falls SP on May 16-19 (M. O'Brien +) was quite rare in Garrett Co. Barbara and Phil Davis heard three **Black Rails** at Elliott I. on Apr. 22; two or three were heard there on May 21 (Arnold, Maloney). A **Clapper Rail** at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 21 (Ricciardi +) was a surprise; Reese found one dead on the road at Easton on Apr. 22. A **King**

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## MIGRANT VULTURES & DIURNAL RAPTORS, SPRING 2001

### FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Data Compiled by Sue Ricciardi

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	2/9	5/30	303	41 on 3/25, 34 on 3/19
Turkey Vulture	2/9	6/5	4,758	597 on 3/25, 291 on 3/11
Osprey	3/3	6/5	505	29 on 4/21, 26 on 4/29
Mississippi Kite	5/5	5/28	11	6 on 5/23, also 1 on 5/8, 14, 27
Bald Eagle	2/19	6/4	75	8 on 5/27, 5 on 4/20
Northern Harrier	3/11	5/23	77	10 on 4/22, 9 on 4/7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/19	5/29	1,942	232 on 4/22, 215 on 4/23
Cooper's Hawk	2/19	5/27	413	28 on 3/23, 27 on 3/25 & 4/23
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/9	4/23	226	53 on 3/24, 29 on 3/14
Broad-winged Hawk	4/12	6/4	717	289 on 4/22, 111 on 4/14
Red-tailed Hawk	2/9	5/29	323	35 on 3/25, 32 on 3/11
American Kestrel	3/2	5/14	333	57 on 4/7, 40 on 4/12
Merlin	3/25	5/22	49	9 on 4/22, 6 on 4/29
Peregrine Falcon	4/20		1	
Unidentified Raptors			52	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2/9</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>9,785</b>	<b>789 on 4/22, 778 on 3/25</b>

514.3 hours of observation on 91 days.

**Rail** was heard at UMCF on May 2 (Solem +). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Tanyard on Apr. 2 (Iliff), one was at Cranesville Swamp on Apr. 13 (Churchill), and one was at Finzel Swamp, GA on May 20 (Ringler +). A **Sora** was at Bethel WMA on Apr. 13 (Fisher), one was at Elliott on Apr. 28 (Lovelace), one was heard at North Point SP on May 4 (Jenkins), and one was at Hammel Glade Swamp, GA in mid May (Iliff). Single **Common Moorhens** were noted at Bethel WMA on Apr. 13 (Fisher), at Warfield's Pond, HO on May 14-15 (Tufts +), at McKee-Beshers on May 23-28 (Woodward), at Patterson Park, BC on May 23 (Costley), and at Piney Run on May 25 (Perry); two were at Blackwater on May 4 (Willey). On Mar. 3 about 160 **American Coots** remained at Piney Run (Ringler) and 1,200 at Loch Raven (Terry, Lev); 88 were at Broadford Lake on Apr. 1 (Pope).

*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts.* Reports of **Black-bellied Plovers** included one at Scotland on Apr. 10 (Craig, Cribb), two at Tanyard on Apr. 18 (Iliff), one flying over Kenilworth Park on Apr. 27 (Pisano), 1,060 near Ironshire, WO on May 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead), 11 near Tuckahoe SP, QA on May 19 (Poet), 500 near Snow Hill on May 20 (Dyke), and three at Point Lookout on May 24 (Rambo). The Snow Hill flock also contained one **American Golden-Plover** (Dyke), very rare in spring. An early **Semipalmated Plover** was at Hart-Miller on Apr. 22 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), eight were near Tuckahoe SP, QA on May 20 (Poet), 16 were at Kingman Lake on May 21 and three were there on May 31 (Bowen), two were at Flag Ponds on May 22-29 (Ripley), and 12 were at Broad Creek on May 28 (Mozurkewich). The only large flocks of **Killdeer** reported were 42 near Scotland on Mar. 5 (Craig), 35 near Wye I. on Mar. 12 (Poet), and 200 at Tilghman I. on Mar. 18 (Roslund). Two **American Oystercatchers** were at Hooper I. on Mar. 11 (H. Armistead). On Apr. 13 three **Black-necked Stilts** were at Deal Island WMA (C. & D. Broderick, J. & F. Juriga) and two at Elliott I. (H. Armistead).

*Tringine Sandpipers, Whimbrels, Turnstones.* Six **Greater Yellowlegs** and three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were near Tuckahoe SP, QA on Mar. 20 (Poet). There were 97 Greaters at Tanyard on Apr. 2 (Iliff), 45 Greaters were at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns), and 50 Lessers were at Tanyard on Mar. 17 (H. & G. Armistead). A Greater Yellowlegs at UMCF on Mar. 11 (Ott) was early and two migrating past Rigby's Folly on May 27 (H. Armistead) were late as were one at Broad Creek on May 28 (Mozurkewich) and one at Queenstown on June 1 (Poet). An early Lesser Yellowlegs was near Scotland on Mar. 5 (Craig). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at KAG on Apr. 13 (Pisano) and one at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 14 (Sunell, Wright) were early; 51 were at Fort Smallwood on May 12 (Ricciardi +) and Jenkins counted 37 at Loch Raven on May 15. Harry Armistead found seven **Willetts** at Hooper Island on Apr. 13 and Reese estimated 150 at Ocean City on Apr. 27. A Willet was a rarity at Lakeside on Apr. 22 (Lou Nielsen); one of the western subspecies was at East Potomac Park on May 26 (Pisano). An early **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Centennial on Apr. 3 (Maloney); 35 were at Flag Ponds on May 22, down to four on May 29 (Ripley). Hafner saw nine **Whimbrels** at Assateague on Apr. 21, eight were at Ocean City on Apr. 27 (Reese), one at Cambridge on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner), four at Eagles Nest on May 23 (Ringler +), and 13 at Havre de Grace on May 26 (D. Webb). Three **Ruddy Turnstones** were at North Beach on May 18 (Stasz), one was at Fort McHenry on May 19 (Peters +), one was at Pemberton Manor, QA on May 20 (Iliff, Hafner), two were at PRNAS on May 20 (Craig, Bishop), one was at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley), one at Cumberland on May 23 (Simons), and one was at Point Lookout on May 24 (Rambo).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* Two **Red Knots** were at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Scarpulla +). There were 49 **Sanderlings** at PRNAS on Mar. 27 (Craig), 15 at Flag Ponds on Apr. 17 and three there on May 22 (Ripley), and one at PRNAS on May 20 (Craig, Bishop). A Sanderling at Cumberland on May 24 (Paulus) was unusual. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** included sev-

eral at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 25 (Lawler), 87 at North Beach on May 18 (Stasz), 100 at Flag Ponds on May 22 down to seven on May 29 (Ripley), 23 at KAG on May 25 (Pisano), and 10 at Kingman Lake on May 31 (Bowen, Paul). Very rare in spring, a **Western Sandpiper** was at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Scarpulla +), two were at Flag Ponds on May 12 (Ripley), and two were at Dameron on May 18 (Craig). Lovelace found 61 **Least Sandpipers** on Apr. 29 near Oak Grove and 45 were at Blackwater the same day (H. Armistead), and 100 were at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley). An early **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Hart-Miller on May 5 (Scarpulla, Bystrak); others were one at Cumberland on May 18-19 (Iliff +), three at Berlin on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner), three at Blackwater on May 21 (Arnold, Maloney), one at Fort Smallwood on May 22 (Ricciardi +), nine at Broad Creek on May 28 (Mozurkewich), five at Kingman Lake on May 31 (Bowen, Paul), and one at North Branch on May 31 (Paulus). The first **Pectoral Sandpipers** reported this spring were four at Havre de Grace on Mar. 20 (Hafner, Powell); exceptionally late were one near Tuckahoe SP, QA on May 14 (Iliff, G. Armistead), two at Medleys Neck, SM on May 19 (Rambo), and one at Cumberland on May 23 (Paulus). Three **Purple Sandpipers** were seen at Poplar Island on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner) and seven remained at Ocean City on May 23 (Balestri). Two **Dunlins** were at PRNAS on Mar. 27 (Craig), two at Hart-Miller on Apr. 7 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), two at Broad Creek on Apr. 15 and 11 there on May 10 (Mozurkewich), and Paulus saw three at North Branch on May 31. The only **Stilt Sandpipers** reported were one at Hart-Miller on Apr. 14-22 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), one at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 18 (Iliff), and one at Blackwater on May 5 (H. Armistead +). A male **Ruff** was a surprise at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 13 (C. & D Broderick, J. & F. Juriga).

**Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalarope.** Sightings of **Short-billed Dowitchers** included eight at Hacks Point, CE on Apr. 5 (Fisher), one at Blackwater on Apr. 20 (Arnold) and three there on Apr. 29 (H. Armistead), 11 near Tuckahoe SP, QA on May 7-20 (Poet), one at KAG on May 18 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 34 at North Beach on May 18 (Stasz). Ten **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at Elliott Island on Mar. 25 (H. Armistead), three at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 13 (C. & D. Broderick), and one at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Scarpulla +). High counts of **Common Snipe** were 80 at Tanyard on Mar. 17 (H. & G. Armistead), 40 at Centennial on Mar. 23 (Ott), 22 at Edgewood Area of APG on Mar. 28 (Powell), 48 at PRNAS on Mar. 28 (Rambo, Craig), 17 at Kingman Lake on Mar. 28 (Bowen), 79 at UMCF on Apr. 3 (Ott), and 40 at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns); a late one was at PRNAS on May 19 (Craig). On Mar. 3 Bystrak found an **American Woodcock** nest with four eggs near Jug Bay, AA. A female **Wilson's Phalarope** was near Cedartown, WO on May 15-16 (G. Armistead, Iliff).

**Gulls.** The first **Laughing Gulls** reported were four at Salisbury on Mar. 4 (Mike Walsh), one at West Ocean City on Mar. 9 (Stock), two at Cambridge on Mar. 11 (H. Armistead), one at Greenbelt Lake, PG on Mar. 12 (Churchill), one at St. Michaels on Mar. 16 (Reese), six at Ridge on Mar. 18 (Craig, Bishop), and in the upper part of Chesapeake Bay two at Edgewood Area of APG on Mar. 30 (Cheicante); greater numbers were 195 at Tanyard on Mar. 17 (H. & G. Armistead), 400 at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns), 500 near Easton on May 1 (Reese), and 246 at Upper Marlboro on May 2 (Shaffer). Unusual were one Laughing Gull at Seneca on Apr. 29 (Stock) and eight first-summer birds at Hains Point on May 25 (Pisano). An immature **Franklin's Gull** was at Back River on Apr. 5 (Blom, Monk, Dixon). Single **Little Gulls** were seen on the Susquehanna River off Bald Friar, CE and Port Deposit on Mar. 20-24 (Hafner, Powell +). Back River again hosted the most Little Gulls with 7-10 birds seen from Mar. 29 through Apr. 21 with daily highs of five from Mar. 31 through Apr. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper +). The Potomac River was not left out this year with one adult Little Gull at Sy-

camore Landing on Apr. 6 and two adults at Seneca on Apr. 27 (Czaplak +). Single immature **Black-headed Gulls** were at Ocean City on Mar. 21 (C. & D. Broderick) and Port Deposit (seen from Lapidum) on Apr. 9 (Iliff, Hafner). Concentrations of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 403 at Hart-Miller on Mar. 11 (Scarpulla), 500 at Lapidum on Mar. 19 (Hafner), 2,500 at Back River on Apr. 5 (Blom, Monk, Dixon), 300 off Fort Smallwood on Apr. 1-2 (Ricciardi +), 536 at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 5 (Schreitz), 131 at Wilde Lake on Apr. 5 (Schwarz), and 150 at Sycamore Landing on Apr. 6 (Czaplak). A Bonaparte's Gull at Tanyard on Mar. 17 (H. & G. Armistead) and 10 there on Apr. 18 (Iliff) were unusual. Reese estimated 1,500 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Linkwood, DO on Mar. 21; one immature at Cumberland on June 4 (Paulus) was a late migrant. Unusual in Garrett Co. were 20 **Herring Gulls** in a mixed flock over Winter's Pond on Apr. 7 (Pope). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** at Ocean City was last seen on Mar. 10 (Churchill), an adult was there on Mar. 25 through Apr. 20 (Czaplak, Todd +), and another first-winter bird was at the hog farm near Brookview, DO on Apr. 29 with seven **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (Hafner, Stasz, Fehskens). Other sightings of Lesser Black-backs were one at Gilpin Point, CN on Mar. 24 (Sanford, P. Webb), two at Ocean City on Mar. 25 (Czaplak, Todd), one at PRNAS on Mar. 28 (Craig +), one at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns), an adult at Hart-Miller on May 5 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), a first-winter bird at Berlin on May 15 (Iliff, G. Armistead), four first-winter birds at Ocean City on May 19-24 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner), and five (three first-summer, two second-summer) at Hart-Miller on May 20 (Scarpulla). A first-winter **Glaucoous Gull** was at Ocean City on Mar. 21 (C. & D. Broderick) and a second-winter bird was at Hooper Island on Apr. 13-20 (H. Armistead +). The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates was seen sporadically through the season (various observers).

**Terns.** Early **Caspian Terns** were one at Lapidum and two at Conowingo Dam on Mar. 31 (Arnold), one at Blackwater on Mar. 31 (Wilkerson), three at Jug Bay on Mar. 31 (Bystrak), two at the Tidal Basin on Apr. 1 (Pisano), two at Mount Calvert on Apr. 2 (Shaffer), one at Centennial on Apr. 2 (Solem), and one at Back River on Apr. 3 (B. & P. Davis); high counts of Caspians were 358 at Hart-Miller on Apr. 14 (Scarpulla) and 55 at Tanyard on Apr. 18 (Iliff); unusual were three Caspians flying over Pleasant Valley, GA on May 11 (Pope). Interesting reports of **Royal Terns** were one at St. Mary's City, SM on Apr. 4 (Craig, Bishop), one at North Beach on Apr. 6 (Shaffer), 44 at Eagle Harbor, PG on Apr. 8 (Mozurkewich), one at Upper Marlboro and one at Mount Calvert on Apr. 10 (Shaffer), three at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 12 (Eanes), and two at Hart-Miller on Apr. 22 and May 12-20 (Scarpulla +). One **Roseate Tern** was at Ocean City on May 16-19 (Hoffman, Dyke +). Shaffer saw eight **Common Terns** at Chesapeake Beach on Apr. 13 and Rambo saw 30 at PRNAS on May 21. Among this spring's **Forster's Terns** were two at Leonardtown on Mar. 2 (Craig), six at Hooper I. on Mar. 11 (H. Armistead) and two at Eastern Neck the same day (Reese +), four at Ocean City on Mar. 21 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Mount Calvert on Apr. 10 (Shaffer), one at Centennial on Apr. 17 (Larry Murphy), and 35 at Tanyard on Apr. 18 (Iliff). A **Least Tern** was at Leeds Creek on Apr. 26 (Roslund), one was at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 26 (Ricciardi +), one was at Greenbelt on May 6 (Mozurkewich), another at Kingman Lake on May 10 (Paul), and one at PWRC on May 12 (Fallon). Three **Black Terns** were on the Choptank River, TA/DO and one at Ocean City on May 19 (Iliff, G. Armistead, Hafner) and one was at Ocean City on May 21 (Arnold, Maloney).

**Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.** An early **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Tunis Mills on Apr. 27 (Roslund) and an early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 14 (Sunell, Wright) and another early bird was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 24 (Cooper). Scarpulla saw four **Short-eared Owls** at Hart-Miller on Mar. 24. Iliff, G. Armistead, and Hafner listened to the display flight of a Short-eared Owl in Garrett

Co. on May 19. An extraordinarily early **Common Nighthawk** appeared in Baltimore on Apr. 9 (Joel Martin); the next report was one heard at Lake Elkhorn on May 1 (Arnold). Early **Chuck-will's-widows** were one seen on the Mall in DC on Apr. 13 (Costley), four heard at Elliott on Apr. 22 (B. & P. Davis), and three at Dameron on Apr. 23 (Craig); one at Soldiers Delight on May 4 (Droege) was at a site where the species has occurred before, but one at Fort McHenry on May 19 (Peters +) was a first for that location. Early **Whip-poor-wills** were one seen at Patuxent Ponds Park, AA on Apr. 8 (Shaffer), one heard at Cumberland on Apr. 10 (Kiddy), one heard at St. Margarets, AA on Apr. 11 (Schreitz), one in Cecil Co. on Apr. 12 (John), two at Waldorf on Apr. 13 (Jett), two at Patuxent River SP on Apr. 13 (Tufts), and one at McKee-Beshers on Apr. 14 (Jason Waanders). Early **Chimney Swifts** were 12 at Greensboro on Apr. 5 (Scudder); on Apr. 8 there were 10 at Merkle (Mozurkewich), two at Piney Orchard Preserve, AA (Callahan), one near RFK Stadium, DC (Pisano), and several at Washington Monument SP (Huy). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** of the season were one at Hughesville, CH on Apr. 10 (*fide* Lee Duer), one at Dameron on Apr. 12 (Craig), and one at Parsonsburg on Apr. 13 (Pitney). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen at a feeder near Annapolis to about May 25 (*fide* Ricciardi). On Mar. 17 during a boat trip Cribb saw a **Northern Flicker** about 35 miles offshore from Ocean City.

**Flycatchers, Vireos.** An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MPEA on May 12 (Chan Robbins), one was at Fletchers Boathouse on May 15 (Ottavio Janni +), and one visited Ellicott City on May 23-24 (Ott +). A very early **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was heard at Henryton, HO on Apr. 28 (Austin) and one was at Pusey Branch, WO the same day (Lovelace). The first **Acadian Flycatcher** of the season was reported at Hollywood on Apr. 24 (Rambo). A migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was near Indian Springs WMA on May 20 (Bowen +), another was at KAG on May 25-27 (Pisano +), and one at Owings Mills, BA on May 28 (Costley +). The first **Willow Flycatcher** reported was singing at Hunt Valley, BA on May 11 (Jenkins). Single **Least Flycatchers** at Fort McHenry on May 19 (Peters +) and Ellicott City on May 23 (Ott) were late. Single early **Eastern Phoebes** were at KAG on Mar. 1 (Pisano), Dameron on Mar. 2 (Craig), and on Mar. 3 at Terrapin (Graff +), Westminster, CL (Ringler), and Indian Head (Ghebelian). Balestri watched the progress of a nest of phoebes in her yard in Frederick: three eggs on Apr. 20, five eggs on Apr. 22, nestlings on May 6, five fledged on May 26. An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at California on Apr. 16 (T. Bell) followed on Apr. 21 by one at Princess Anne, SO (Eanes), one at Pocomoke Swamp (Lovelace), two at Dameron (Craig), and several heard at Turkey Point (Fisher). An **Eastern Kingbird** seen at Soldiers Delight on Mar. 16 (Joe McDaniel) was extraordinary since the next in the state was at Greensboro on Apr. 10 (Scudder) and one was at Anacostia Park on Apr. 10 (Bowen). Also extraordinary was the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Dameron on May 12 (Craig +). An early **White-eyed Vireo** was at Point Lookout on Apr. 7 (Tony Ziccardi), and, on Apr. 13, one was banded at Chino Farms (Gruber), one was at Centennial (Austin), one was at Kings Landing Park (Ripley), two were at Kinder Farm Park (Callahan, Banks), and one was at MPEA (Maloney). Early **Yellow-throated Vireos** were one at Seneca on Apr. 20 (Bowen) and one at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 21 (Weesner). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Triadelphia, MO on Apr. 1 (Ott +). The earliest **Warbling Vireo** of the season was at Lake Roland, BA on Apr. 17 (D. Burggraf). Very rare in spring were single **Philadelphia Vireos** at St. Mary's River SP, SM on Apr. 27 (Hafner, Fehskens), Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and Upper Marlboro on June 5 (Shaffer). The first **Red-eyed Vireos** of the season were one at California on Apr. 16 (T. Bell), two at Dameron on Apr. 21 (Craig), two at Pocomoke Swamp on Apr. 21 (Lovelace), and one at Turkey Point on Apr. 21 (Fisher); about 35 were at Rock Creek Park on May 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

*Corvids, Larks, Swallows.* Jim Felley first noted migrant **Blue Jays** flying over the Mall in DC on Apr. 19 and Sue Ricciardi reported nearly 3,300 flying past Fort Smallwood during the period Apr. 21-24. A **Common Raven** seen near Adamstown on May 28 (Arnold +) had probably come from nearby Sugarloaf Mountain. The last flock of **Horned Larks** remaining from the winter was 60 near Ridgely on Apr. 1 (Schreitz). The first **Purple Martin** of the spring was seen at Jug Bay on Mar. 18 (Bystrak). Three or four **Tree Swallows** were at Bethel WMA on Mar. 3 (John) and two at Cumberland on Mar. 13 (Kiddy) were very early there. Also early were two Tree Swallows at McKee-Beshers on Mar. 10 (Sussman), three at Hart-Miller on Mar. 11 (Scarpulla), two near Carmichael, QA on Mar. 15 (Poet), and two at Bridge Creek on Mar. 16 (C. & D. Broderick); high numbers were 100 at Allens Fresh on Mar. 2 (Craig), 500 at Back River on Apr. 9 (Iliff +), thousands at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 12 (Ricciardi +), and 500 at Jug Bay on Apr. 15 (Reese, Kearns). Incredibly early were six **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Bush River, HA on Mar. 5 (Blom, Monk), one at Jug Bay on Mar. 12 (Bystrak), and one at Marriottsville on Mar. 18 (Cullison), and two **Cliff Swallows** at Daniels on Apr. 2 (Cullison). Two Cliff Swallows and 12 Rough-wings were seen at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19 (Ripley). A Cliff Swallow was at Kenilworth Park on May 6 (Pisano). Early **Bank Swallows** were two at Beauvue on Apr. 6 (Craig), one at Centennial on Apr. 10 (J. Coskren), one at Jug Bay on Apr. 11 (Bystrak), one at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 11 (Shaffer), and four at Blackwater on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead). Exceptionally early **Barn Swallows** were one at Piney Run on Mar. 11 (Terry, Ringler), six at McKee-Beshers on Mar. 20 (Alexander), one at Rumbly Point on Mar. 24 (Arnold), and one at Centennial on Mar. 25 (Mike Kerwin +).

*Chickadees, Nuthatch, Wrens, Kinglets.* Jan Reese saw **Carolina Chickadees** nest-building on Mar. 31 at St. Michaels and five fledglings at a feeder there on May 27; Poet noted Carolina Chickadees nest-building at Nolands Ferry on Apr. 21. A lingering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last heard near Centennial on May 22 (Austin). An early **Carolina Wren** nest was noted at Centennial on Mar. 15 (Ott), a completed nest was at Queenstown on the same day (Poet), a nest with three eggs was seen in Baltimore Co. on Mar. 16 (*fide* Ott), and a nest with young ready to fledge was at Dunkirk on Apr. 17 (Ripley). Single **House Wrens** that suggested wintering birds were at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 8 (J. Coskren) and at Pigtail Branch, HO on Mar. 18 (Magnusson). Migrant House Wrens were one at Denton on Apr. 10 (Nuttle), one at KAG on Apr. 13 (Pisano), one banded at Chino Farms on Apr. 13 (Gruber), and one at Dameron on Apr. 13 (Craig). A **Sedge Wren** was singing on the night of May 18 at Elliott I. (M. O'Brien +). A **Marsh Wren** was at Rigby's Folly on Apr. 12 (H. Armistead) and one was at the Avalon Area of PVSP on May 12 (Sheppard). Ripley counted 18 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at Flag Ponds on Apr. 17 and 15 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19 during the peak of migration. Nest-building gnatcatchers were observed on Apr. 21 at E. A. Vaughn WMA (Devin, Justin, & Gordon Bosler) and near Nolands Ferry (Poet +), and on Apr. 22 at KAG (Kerry Stone).

*Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits.* Farner noted 40 **Eastern Bluebirds** flying over Kinder Farm Park on Mar. 26; Callahan found three nestlings in a Nanjemoy box on Apr. 23. The first **Veery** of the season was at Cylburn on Apr. 22 (Sanford +) and a late migrant was at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley). The first **Swainson's Thrush** was at Gilbert Run Park on Apr. 30 (F. Burggraf). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was banded at Chino Farms on May 14 (Gruber), three were banded at PRNAS on May 21 and one the next day (Rambo), one was at Hallmark on May 23-24 (Ebert), and one was at Point Lookout on May 26 (Craig, Bishop). Three **Bicknell's Thrushes** were banded at PRNAS on May 21 (Rambo). On the night of May 11-12 O'Brien heard four Gray-cheeked and two Bicknell's thrushes flying over Rockville, MO. A **Hermit Thrush** at Mountain Lake Park on Mar. 5 (Pope) may have been an early migrant; 12 were at Roosevelt Island during the peak of migration on Apr. 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

Early **Wood Thrushes** were one at Dameron on Apr. 9 (Craig), one at Roosevelt Island on Apr. 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Salisbury on Apr. 13 (Dyke), and two banded at Chino Farms on Apr. 13 (Gruber). Migrant flocks of **American Robins** included 150 at Ingleside on Mar. 12 (Poet) and 200 at Kinder Farm Park on Mar. 26 (Farner); the first nest with eggs was seen at Tunis Mills on Apr. 22 (Roslund). On Mar. 17 Cribb saw 22 robins during a boat trip 8 miles offshore from Ocean City. Single wintering **Gray Catbirds** were at Horsehead on Mar. 3 (Graff +), PRNAS on Mar. 4 (Rambo), KAG on Mar. 4 (Hilton, Shannon), and Centennial on Mar. 10 (Cullison); single birds at Black Marsh, BA on Apr. 7 (Schwarz), KAG on Apr. 10 (Bowen), Sandy Point SP on Apr. 12 (Eanes), Mt. Nebo WMA on Apr. 13 (Pope), Hart-Miller on Apr. 14 (Scarpulla), and Salisbury on Apr. 15 (Lawler) were probably early migrants. In St. Mary's Co. it is sometimes difficult to separate the wintering from the migrating **Brown Thrashers** in the spring. This March there were one at PRNAS on the 4th (Rambo), one at Dameron on the 7<sup>th</sup> with two there on the 17<sup>th</sup> (Craig), and one at Cornfield Harbor on the 15<sup>th</sup> (Craig); likewise one at Nanjemoy on Mar. 12 (Callahan). The only flock of **American Pipits** reported was 30 in Caroline Co. near Oak Grove on Apr. 22 (Lovelace); late birds on May 12 were two at Flag Ponds (Ripley) and one at Hart-Miller (Scarpulla +). Hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** were at Rock Creek Park on May 2-9 (Mackiernan, Cooper +) and about 300 passed Fort Smallwood on May 5 (Ricciardi +).

*Vermivora Warblers, Parulas.* Early **Blue-winged Warblers** on Apr. 21 were one at MPEA (Arnold) and one at Ashton (Sussman). Few **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported: one male at Centennial on Apr. 23 (Paul McGowan), one at Mill Creek Sanctuary, TA on Apr. 29 (Reese +), and one at Leakin Park in Baltimore on May 12 (Crabtree, E. & P. Kreiss). A male hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was seen near Lake Artemesia on Apr. 28 (Jack Saba). Early **Tennessee Warblers** were a singing male at Broad Creek on Apr. 28 (Shaffer) and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a record-late bird was singing at Upper Marlboro on June 6 (Stasz). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Blackwater on Mar. 3-16 (Wilson +), one was at Kinder Farm Park on Apr. 5 (Shaffer), and one was at the National Arboretum on Apr. 6 (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn). The first **Northern Parulas** of the season were found on Apr. 9 with one at Hollywood (Rambo), one at Dameron (Craig), and one at Nanjemoy (Callahan); one at Grantsville on Apr. 21 (Yoder) was early for Garrett Co.

*Dendroica Warblers.* An early **Yellow Warbler** was at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 14 (C. & D. Broderick). Very early **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were one at Cromwell Valley Park on Apr. 15 (E. & N. Kirschbaum), one at Purse SP on Apr. 23 (Wilkerson), and two at Mt. Nebo WMA on Apr. 25 (Pope); late was one at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley). Reese found 20 **Magnolia Warblers** at JEDS on May 11 and 35 were at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late Magnolia was banded at Chino Farms on June 1 (Gruber). The first **Cape May Warblers** of the season were one at Rock Creek Park on May 2 (Mackiernan), one at UWBP on May 2 (P. O'Brien), and one at Frederick on May 3 (Balestri). Early **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were one at Fran Uhler NA on Apr. 23 (Arnold), one at Daniels on Apr. 24 (Austin), and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 24 (Cooper); one at Dameron on May 31 and a singing male at PRNAS on June 1 (Craig) were very late. Reports of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 200 at Colmar Manor, PG on Apr. 15 (Mozukewich), hundreds at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 17 (Arnold), and 250 at Rock Creek Park on May 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late one was on the Mall on May 23 (Rob Weiner) and another was at Point Lookout on May 24 (Craig, Rambo). Very early **Black-throated Green Warblers** in Garrett Co. were one at Herrington Manor SP on Apr. 12 (Pope) and one in Garrett SF on Apr. 13 (Churchill), but elsewhere Apr. 21 was the early date with single birds at C&O Canal in Frederick Co. (Balestri),

Rock Creek Park (Pisano), Henryton, HO (Austin), and Pocomoke Swamp (Lovelace); a late bird was singing at Washington Monument SP on May 28 (Weesner). A very early **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Homewood, BC on Apr. 26 (Gonzaga) and a male was at Soldiers Delight on Apr. 29 (Costley, Rogers), and a late bird was at Parsonsburg on May 24 (Pitney). Churchill found three **Yellow-throated Warblers** at YRR on Apr. 13; Ripley tallied 15 at Flag Ponds on Apr. 17 and seven at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19. Stasz obtained video of an *albilora* subspecies of Yellow-throated Warbler at North Beach on Apr. 21. Three **Pine Warblers** were at Dameron on Mar. 1 (Craig). The first **Prairie Warblers** of the season were one at Dameron on Apr. 13 (Craig), two at Kings Landing Park, CT on Apr. 13 (Ripley), two heard at Great Falls, MO on Apr. 14 (F. Powers), one at Schooley Mill Park on Apr. 15 (Olson), and one at Big Pool on Apr. 19 (Eanes). A western **Palm Warbler** banded at Chino Farms on Mar. 20 (Gruber) was likely wintering locally; 40 Palms were at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 14 (Sunell, Wright) and 20 were at Kinder Farm Park on Apr. 21 (Farner). A western Palm Warbler at Mt. Nebo WMA on Apr. 19 (Pope) was rather early, but two banded at Chino Farms on May 2 (Gruber) and two at KAG on May 6 (Pisano, Dobbins, Halpin) were in the typical migration period. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Denton on May 2 (Nuttle), three at Frederick on May 3 (Balestri), one at Centennial on May 4 (Austin), and one at Rock Run on May 4 (Cheicante) were early. An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 30 (Arnold) as were two at Rock Creek Park on May 2 (Bowen, Mackiernan), one near Rowlandsburg, CE on May 3 (Fisher), and one at Denton on May 3 (Nuttle); a late one was at Croom, PG on June 4 (Harten). Early **Cerulean Warblers** were two at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 21 (Weesner), two at Sycamore Landing on Apr. 22 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Henryton, HO on Apr. 22 (Austin), one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 23 (Cooper), and one at Fran Uhler NA on Apr. 23 (Arnold). Unusual was a singing male Cerulean at Gilbert Run Park on May 5 (Ringler, Terry).

*Other Warblers.* An early **Black-and-white Warbler** was heard at Elk Neck SF on Mar. 31 (Fisher), one was at Hollywood on Apr. 6 (Rambo), one was at Catonsville, BA on Apr. 6 (Jim Highsaw), and two were at Daniels on Apr. 9 (Magnusson). Early **American Redstarts** were one at the Izaak Walton League, CH on Apr. 15 (Julie Daniel), one at Joppatowne on Apr. 16 (P. Powers), one at PWRC on Apr. 19 (Fallon), one at Gaithersburg, MO on Apr. 22 (Andy Rabin), and one at Rainbow Lake on Apr. 22 (Arnold); a high of 40 was at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and late birds were one at Upper Marlboro on June 1 (Shaffer), two at Turkey Point on June 2 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre), one at Herrington Harbor on June 6 (Stasz), and an immature male at Point Lookout on June 7 (Craig). Early **Prothonotary Warblers** were two at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Apr. 11 (Lawler), one at Benson Branch, HO on Apr. 13 (G. McClure), one at Kinder Farm Park on Apr. 13 (Callahan, Banks), one at Martinak SP on Apr. 13 (Nuttle), and four at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19 (Ripley). Early **Worm-eating Warblers** were one at Point Lookout on Apr. 17 (Craig) and one at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19 (Ripley). Single early **Ovenbirds** were at Hollywood on Apr. 7 (Rambo), at Cabin Gut Marsh, CH on Apr. 10 (Callahan), heard at Pylesville on Apr. 11 (L. Fry), at Idylwild WMA, CN on Apr. 13 (Lovelace), and at Schooley Mill Park on Apr. 14 (Olson). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were early on Apr. 15, heard at Patuxent River Park, PG (Reese), on Apr. 16 at Graham Creek near Lower Marlboro, CT (Bystrak), on Apr. 17 at Point Lookout (Craig), on Apr. 22 at Cylburn (Sanford +) and Sycamore Landing (Mackiernan, Cooper), and on Apr. 23 at Rockburn (Magnusson, Solem); five were at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley) and a late one was at McKee-Beshers on May 29 (Woodward). An early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Centennial on Mar. 22 (Sue Muller), one was at Jug Bay on Mar. 30 (Bystrak), and Gonzaga observed one nest-building near Liberty Dam, BA on Apr. 22. Very early **Kentucky Warblers** were one at Pocomoke Swamp on Apr. 21 (Lovelace) and one at

Rainbow Lake on Apr. 22 (Arnold). The only reports of **Mourning Warbler** were two at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Little Bennett on May 19 (Eberly), one at Ellicott City on May 23 (Ott), a male at Point Lookout on May 24 and a female there on May 26 (Craig), a singing male at Little Bennett on May 27 (Bob & Toni Hartman), and a singing male at Bowie on June 2 (Fallon) plus the breeders at Roth Rock, GA where there were three singing males from at least May 19 (Iliff +). A very early male **Common Yellowthroat** was at Mount Calvert on Apr. 2 (Shaffer), one was at Blackwater on Apr. 9 (Wilkerson), one was at Dameron on Apr. 12 (Craig), four were banded at Chino Farms on Apr. 13 (Gruber), one was near Bowie on Apr. 14 (Fallon), and one was at Schooley Mill Park on Apr. 14 (Olson). Among the early **Hooded Warblers** were single birds at Sandy Point SP on Apr. 12 (Eanes), heard at Grayton on Apr. 14 (Jett +), Flag Ponds on Apr. 15 (Ripley), Washington Monument SP on Apr. 21 (Weesner), Morgan Run NEA on Apr. 22 (Joe & Carol McDaniels), Ashton on Apr. 22 (Sussman, Olson), Rockburn on Apr. 22 (E. & J. Metter), Dameron on Apr. 23 (Craig), and Rocks SP on Apr. 24 (Bowers). A male **Wilson's Warbler** at Calvert Cliffs SP on Apr. 19 (Ripley) tied the state arrival record; a late bird was at Tunis Mills on May 22 (Roslund). An exceptionally early **Canada Warbler** was at Rockburn on Apr. 22 (E. & J. Metter); the next report was at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, CT on May 1 (Ripley). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Greenwell SP on Apr. 28 (Craig, Bishop).

**Tanagers.** Early **Summer Tanagers** were one at Salisbury on Apr. 21 (C. & D. Broderick) and, on Apr. 22, one near Tunis Mills (Roslund), a male at Dameron (Craig), and an immature male at Locearn, BA (P. Webb); other Piedmont reports were a male at Henryton, HO on Apr. 24 (Ott, Solem, Betts), a male in Frederick Co. on Apr. 29 (Ott), a male at Milford Mill Park on May 5 (Sanford +), a male at Western RP on May 7 (Tufts), two at Great Falls on May 12 (Hafner), a male at Ellicott City on May 14 and 23 (Ott +), and three at Soldiers Delight on May 20-29 (Costley). A Summer Tanager at the National Arboretum on May 5 (Kathy Massena) was unusual there. An early **Scarlet Tanager** was at Fort Washington Park, PG on Apr. 18 (fide Shaffer) and one was at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 20 (Weesner).

**Sparrows, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.** A late **American Tree Sparrow** was at UMCF on Mar. 28 (Ott). **Chipping Sparrows** were on the move early with 11 at West Friendship, HO on Mar. 4 (Cullison), seven at Blackwater on Mar. 11 (H. Armistead), one at Middletown, FR on Mar. 13 (Alexander), 40 near Scotland on Mar. 18 (Craig, Bishop), and a surprising 36 at Soldiers Delight on Mar. 18 (Costley). Two wintering **Clay-colored Sparrows** remained at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Mar. 31 (Sanford +). A Clay-colored Sparrow singing at Kinder Farm Park on May 12 set up a territory there and remained into the summer (D. Mumford, Baker +). Pope found two **Vesper Sparrows** at Broadford Lake on Apr. 5 and Gruber banded one at Chino Farms the same day. Fallon found a **Lark Sparrow** at Merkle on May 16. About 125 **Savannah Sparrows** were near Blackwater on Mar. 16 (G. Armistead, Iliff), 40 were at Western RP on Apr. 6 (Solem, Tufts), 40 at Mount Pleasant on Apr. 7 (Ott +), 22 at Hart-Miller on Apr. 7 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), and two late birds near Alpha Ridge on May 20 (Schwarz). An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was near Blackwater on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead) and one was heard at Kenilworth Park the same day (Pisano). Kiddy heard two **Henslow's Sparrows** near Midland, AL on May 6. One **Le Conte's Sparrow** remained at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Mar. 24 (Dyke). A **Seaside Sparrow** was at Chesapeake Beach on Apr. 21 (Shaffer). At least 24 **Fox Sparrows** were at Ashton on Mar. 30 (Sussman). Scarpulla tallied 103 **Song Sparrows** at Hart-Miller on Mar. 24 during the peak of migration. Gruber banded two **Lincoln's Sparrows** at Chino Farms on the early date of Apr. 30 and two more on May 16, and a late **Swamp Sparrow** on May 17; another late bird was at Flag Ponds on May 22 (Ripley). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Dameron on May 10 (Craig). High counts of **White-throated Sparrows**

were 135 at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 15 (H. Armistead), 200 at Cornfield Harbor on Mar. 15 (Craig), and 100 at PRNAS on Apr. 28 (Lisa Lister); one lingered at Columbia on May 27 (Jane & Ralph Geuder). Migration of **White-crowned Sparrows** was noted with 10 at Assateague on Apr. 21 (Hafner), 12 at Hart-Miller on Apr. 22 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), and 21 at North Branch on Apr. 28 (Churchill); a late bird was at Denton on May 15 (Nuttle) and one was banded at Chino Farms on May 16 (Gruber). An immature Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Chino Farms on May 6 (Gruber). On Mar. 17 Cribb saw two **Dark-eyed Juncos** flying around the boat 22 miles off Ocean City. An aberrant junco with a white head was seen in Bel Air on Apr. 5 (Eileen Frey) and a straggler was at Wilde Lake on May 25 (Carol Newman). Roslund counted 13 **Lapland Longspurs** and one **Snow Bunting** remaining near Ridgely on Mar. 24; Schreitz found eight longspurs there on Apr. 1. At PRNAS 20 Lapland Longspurs remained on Mar. 28 (Rambo, Craig). One Snow Bunting was at Hart-Miller on Mar. 11 (Scarpulla).

*Cardinaline Finches.* During a boat trip on Mar. 17 Marty Cribb saw a **Northern Cardinal** 17 miles offshore from Ocean City. Very early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were single birds at Dunkirk on Apr. 13 (Ripley), Indian Head on Apr. 16 (Ghebelian), Wilde Lake on Apr. 18 (Zeichner), Kinder Farm Park on Apr. 21 (Farner), Liberty Dam, BA on Apr. 22 (Gonzaga), and Frederick on Apr. 25 (Balestri); 50 were at JEDS on May 11 (Reese). Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were one at Violettes Lock on June 3 (Simonson) and one singing at Blackwater on June 12 (Homan). Early **Blue Grosbeaks** were one at Nassawango Creek near Snow Hill on Apr. 21 (Devin, Justin, & Gordon Bosler), two at Parsonsburg on Apr. 22 (Pitney), one at Dameron on Apr. 25 (Craig), and one at Kinder Farm Park on Apr. 25 (Farner). Early **Indigo Buntings** were one near Nolands Ferry on Apr. 21 (Poet +), one at Hilton Area PVSP, BA on Apr. 21 (Paul Canner), one at Monkton, BA on Apr. 22 (Jenkins), and in Howard Co. single birds on Apr. 22 at Wilde Lake (Zeichner), Longfellow (Carolyn Cradler), and MPEA (Ott). A male **Painted Bunting** appeared at a feeder in Frederick on May 19 (L. Solomon) and a possible female at Point Lookout on May 24 (Craig).

*Icterids, Cardueline Finches.* Nearly 1,300 **Bobolinks** passed Fort Smallwood during the period May 5-12 (Ricciardi +), 140 were at UMCF on May 5 (Ott), 200 were at Phoenix, BA on May 11 (Jenkins), and 100 were at Bradenbaugh, HA through May 17 (Dennis Kirkwood). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was migrating over Owings Mills, BA on Mar. 18 (Costley). Notable numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were 250 at Violettes Lock on Mar. 11 (Simonson), 50 at KAG on Mar. 28 (Bowen), and 70 at PWRC on Apr. 22 (Fallon); very late were two at Rock Run on May 26 (Cheicante). On Mar. 17 Cribb saw a **Brown-headed Cowbird** 35 miles offshore from Ocean City which landed on the boat and stayed aboard until within sight of the city in the distance. An early **Orchard Oriole** was at Adkins Arboretum on Apr. 13 (Lovelace) and one was at Seneca on Apr. 15 (Schindler, Linda Friedland). The **Baltimore Oriole** wintering at Indian Head remained through Apr. 7 (Ghebelian) and two males at High Ridge, HO on Apr. 4 (Bea Newkirk) may have wintered locally; the first definite migrant of the season was at Bowie on Apr. 21 (Fallon). A **House Finch** nest with five eggs was in a cemetery wreath at Skipton, TA on Apr. 29 (Reese +). A **Red Crossbill** visited a feeder in Dunkirk for about a week around Apr. 13 (J. Bourdat, Bystrak). In Garrett Co. three **Pine Siskins** were at Herrington Manor SP on Apr. 13 (Churchill), three at Pope's feeder in Mountain Lake Park on Apr. 29, and four were in spruce near Table Rock on May 20 (Pope).

*Exotics.* A **Black Swan** was at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 17 (C. & D. Broderick). An adult **Harris's Hawk** with bands and jesses, obviously an escaped bird, was seen at Cloverly, MO on Apr. 9 (Wilkerson). A **Chukar** was at Sycamore Landing on Apr. 29 (Stock).

## BREEDING SEASON: JUNE 1 – JULY 31, 2001

The season was extraordinarily cold and wet. How this affected nesting is unknown, yet many species had successful seasons.

*Loons, Grebe, Tubenoses.* A **Common Loon** at Point Lookout on July 10 (Craig), one at Hart-Miller on July 14 (Ricciardi, Bystrak +), and one at Horsehead on Aug. 5 (Graff) probably summered locally. A summering **Horned Grebe** was at Chesapeake Beach from June 25 through July 13 (Shaffer +). Birds seen in Maryland waters during a June 9 pelagic trip included two **Cory's Shearwaters**, one **Greater Shearwater**, three **Sooty Shearwaters**, and 10 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (Andy Ednie +). During a June 23 ferry trip from Point Lookout to Smith I. about three Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen in St. Mary's Co. waters and seven in Somerset Co. waters (Crabtree, Ringler +); Eanes reported 12 off Hooper I. on July 13 and six were seen off Point Lookout about July 22 (*fide* Felley).

*Pelicans.* An **American White Pelican** roamed the Chesapeake Bay with sightings in the Bodkin I. area on June 2 and later (Kirk Francis +) and at Poplar I. after that (Brinker +). Chesapeake Bay sightings of **Brown Pelicans** away from breeding sites were a sub-adult off Sandy Point SP on June 2 (Stasz), an adult off Rose Haven on June 5 (Stasz), one at PRNAS on June 6 (Rambo), birds at Smith I. on June 23 (Ringler +), three on the Patuxent River off Hog Point, PRNAS on July 7 (Ripley), eight at St. George Island, SM on July 13 (Callahan), 26 on pound nets off Chesapeake Ranch Estates, CT on July 13 (Ripley), 10 off Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead), and eight at Point Lookout on July 30 (Craig, Artes). On June 5 Jim McCann found 200 Brown Pelicans and 15 nests at Barren I., DO. At the major breeding site in the bay there were 490 Brown Pelicans at Spring I. on June 17 plus young in 132 nests (H. Armistead); 140 young were banded during the summer (Brinker). At Bodkin I. 90 Brown Pelicans were seen on June 20 (Iliff, Hafner) and on July 6 about 50 birds were there (Arnold, Maloney); though nests were built, no eggs were seen.

*Cormorants.* In the Poplar I. area on June 6 Scarpulla counted 739 **Double-crested Cormorants** and estimated 400 nests on Jefferson I., TA. Arnold and Maloney estimated 600 birds at Bodkin I. on July 6. Other cormorant sightings included 12 at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla), seven at Rose Haven on June 5 (Stasz), one at Wilde Lake on June 16 (Perry) and June 25 (Arnold), one at Lake Kittamaquundi on June 20 (Neri), one at Pylesville on June 26 (J. & L. Fry), and eight at Rigby's Folly on July 21 (H. Armistead).

*Herons, Ibis, Vultures.* An **American Bittern** at Beauvue on July 23 (Rambo) was extraordinary. Reports of **Least Bitterns** included two at Lilypons on June 7 (Tarbell), three at McKee-Beshers on June 8 (Woodward), one at Deal Island WMA on June 18 (C. & D. Broderick), and one at Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead). There were 91 active nests of **Great Blue Herons** at Bloodsworth Island on June 17 (H. Armistead). Single Great Blues near Grantsville on June 15 and at Mt. Nebo WMA on June 18 (Pope) may have been rare local breeders in Garrett Co. Great Blues away from nest sites were 15 at KAG on July 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 19 at Hart-Miller on July 14 (Ricciardi, Bystrak +), and 67 off Gravelly Point in DC on July 16 (Bowen). Interesting reports of **Great Egrets** included one at Broad Creek on June 2 (Shaffer), 1 at Elkton on June 2 (Fisher), two at River Terrace Park on June 3 (Hubbell), two at Lilypons on June 3 (Schwarz), one at Upper Marlboro on June 5-12 (Shaffer +), 119 at Blackwater on June 8 (H. Armistead), two at Bodkin I. on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney), five at Mason Springs, CH on July 8 (Jett), three at KAG and six at Kingman Lake

on July 13 (Paul), one at Seneca on July 23 (Todd), and 14 at Broad Creek on July 27 (Mozurkewich). **Snowy Egrets** included five at North Beach on June 12, 29 there on July 25 (Stasz), 150 at Bodkin I. on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney), and one at UMCF from July 30 through August 5 (Arnold +). **Little Blue Herons** numbered two adults at Elkton on June 2 (Fisher), 30 at Smith I. on June 21 (H. Armistead +), seven at Bodkin I. on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney), one immature at KAG on July 20 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one immature at Loch Raven on July 24 (Lev), and three immatures at Kingman Lake on July 28 (Pisano). **Tricolored Herons** outside breeding colonies were one at Jug Bay on July 23-24 (Bystrak), two at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz, Harten), and two at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). Seven **Cattle Egrets** were at North Point SP on July 1 (Costley), 25 were at Bodkin Island on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney), and 18 were at Scotland on July 30 (Craig, Artes). Piedmont reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were one adult at Wilde Lake on June 16 (Perry), one at Lake Elkhorn on July 3 (D. & J. Coskren), one at Lake Kittamaquendi on July 9 (Arnold), and six at Seneca on July 22 (Todd). A Black-crown at Chambers Lake in Federalsburg on July 29 (Scudder) was also unusual. Notable **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were an adult at Solomons on June 7 (Hamilton), two nests with two young each and one nest with four young at Wyman Park, BC on June 17 (E. & N. Kirschbaum), 40 at Smith I. on June 21 (H. & G. Armistead), one at Mattawoman Creek, CH from June 22 through July 8 (Jett, Brewer), two at Fletchers Boathouse from June 26 through July 6 (Hubbell +), and one at Lake Elkhorn from July 28 through Aug. 1 (Neri +). A **Glossy Ibis** was at Herrington Harbor on July 6 (Stasz), six were at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin), and one was at North Beach on July 25-27 (Stasz +). A **Black Vulture** circling over the Wallman area of Potomac SF on June 25 (Pope) was a rarity for Garrett Co. A **Turkey Vulture** at Smith I. on June 21 (H. & G. Armistead) was unusual.

*Geese, Swans, Ducks.* Two **Snow Geese** stayed through the summer at Hurlock (many observers). Summer concentrations of **Canada Geese** were 1,265 at Blackwater on June 17 (H. Armistead, Erwin), 98 at North Branch on June 25 (Paulus), 91 at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +), and 150 at St. Michaels on Aug. 8 (Reese). At Poplar I. on June 6 Scarpulla tallied 66 **Mute Swans** including 16 young, at Spring I. on June 17 there was a pair with six young (H. Armistead, Erwin), and at Nanjemoy Creek on June 25 there was an adult with five young (Jett, Brewer). An adult **Tundra Swan** was at Broad Creek on July 27 (Mozurkewich). A **Gadwall** at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) may have been a late migrant, but three at Loch Raven on July 19 (Lev) were summering at an extraordinary location. Two **American Wigeon** were at Hart-Miller on June 30 with one remaining on July 14 (Bystrak +). Six **American Black Ducks** at Roosevelt Island on July 16 (Bowen) were unexpected. The peak count of **Mallards** at Hart-Miller was 474 on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin). The first migrant **Blue-winged Teal** of the season was at Hart-Miller on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin) and a migrant **Green-winged Teal** was there on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). Four Green-wings were at Elliott I. on the 28<sup>th</sup> also (H. Armistead, Erwin). A summering **Canvasback** remained at Hart-Miller through July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin), one was at Havre de Grace on Aug. 7 (Spike Updegrafe), and one at Selby Bay was still being seen on Sept. 29 (Mozurkewich). Three **Greater Scaup** were at Hart-Miller on June 30 and one was there on July 7 (Bystrak +). Ricciardi saw six **Lesser Scaup** at Edgewater, AA on June 5, three remaining on the 12<sup>th</sup>; one was at Beltsville on June 8-11 (Larry Robinson) and a male was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11 (Stasz, Graff). Two **Surf Scoters** were on Eastern Bay, QA on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney). An adult male **White-winged Scoter** was at Elliott on June 6 (Arnold); up to three summered near Horsehead and were seen through Aug. 19 (Graff, Schreitz). Two **Black Scoters** at Horsehead on Aug. 5 (Graff) had been present since June. Three male **Long-tailed Ducks**

were at Fort Smallwood on June 2, one remaining the next day (Ricciardi +); and an adult male was at Scientists Cliffs, CT on July 18 (Hamilton). A male **Hooded Merganser** was at Chain Bridge, DC on June 1 and perhaps the same bird was at Fletchers Boathouse on June 26-29 (Hubbell +); a female was at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). A male **Common Merganser** was at Broad Creek on June 2 (Shaffer), a female at KAG on June 3 (Cooper), one at Conowingo Dam on June 23 (*fide* Voice of the Naturalist), and a pair at Bladensburg, PG, July 27 through Aug. 8 (Mozurkewich +). Summering **Ruddy Ducks** included one at Hart-Miller from July 14 through Aug. 18 (Bystrak +), three there on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), two at Ridgely on July 17 (Hafner), five at Benedict, CH on July 25 (Rambo), two at Back River on July 27 and one there on Aug. 4 (Stasz), and 12 at Hurlock on July 27 (Hafner, Stasz).

*Diurnal Raptors, Turkeys.* Inland **Ospreys** were one at Lake Elkhorn, June 12 through July 17 (Neri +), one at McKee-Beshers on July 8 (Woodward), one at Broadford Lake on July 19 (Pope), and one at Loch Raven on July 26 (Terry, Lev). Rambo counted 67 Ospreys at PRNAS on July 30. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen just east of Greensboro on July 26 (*fide* Voice of the Naturalist). **Bald Eagles** numbered 31 at Blackwater on June 17 and 32 at Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin). Larry Fry saw a **Northern Harrier** at Pylesville on June 8 and July 1, unusual for that area. Droege noted that a female **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was still tending a nest at Soldiers Delight on June 20; other birds were one at Reisterstown, BA on July 16 (Gail Frantz) and one in Anacostia, DC on July 30 (Bowen). Coastal Plain reports of **Cooper's Hawks** were single birds at Waldorf on June 26 (Jett), Friendship, AA on June 28 (Stasz), Kings Creek Preserve, TA on July 28 (Reese), and Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** near Chincoteague from June 16 to July 31 (T. & C. Dew) was the only Coastal Plain report. A male **American Kestrel** at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) may have been a late spring migrant, and one there on July 14 (Ricciardi, Bystrak +) may have been an early fall migrant as there were no sightings except breeders in the intervening period. A hen **Wild Turkey** with small downy young was seen near Cranesville Swamp on June 10 (Pope). A Wild Turkey was at Soldiers Delight on June 24 (Ringler). The only Piedmont report of **Northern Bobwhite** was one near Triadelphia, MO on July 28 (Sussman).

*Rallids, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilt, Avocets.* A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Mt. Nebo WMA on June 18 (Pope). A **Sora** at Patterson Park in Baltimore from May 30 through June 12 and two there on May 31 (Costley +) were unexpected for that urban location. Reports of **Common Moorhens** included two near Edgewood, HA on June 2 (Blom) and one at Easton on July 27 (Stasz, Hafner). **Black-bellied Plovers** at opposite ends of the migration spectrum at Hart-Miller were 11 spring birds on June 9 (Scarpulla) and three fall birds on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). Similarly, two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) and 21 there on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin). Other Semi Plovers were one at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz +) and two at Oxon Cove and one at Bladensburg on July 27 (Mozurkewich). DNR personnel reported that about 55 pairs of **Piping Plovers** were on Assateague this year. A Piping Plover flying past North Beach on July 14 (Stasz) was extraordinary. A late nest of **Killdeer** at St. Michaels contained one egg on June 8 (Reese). Post-breeding flocks of Killdeer began with 10 at Loch Raven on June 29 (Lev), 13 at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak), 23 at North Beach on July 10 (Stasz), and 20 at KAG on July 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Five **American Oystercatchers** were at Holland Island on June 17 (H. Armistead, Erwin). One **Black-necked Stilt** was still at Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin). Sightings of **American Avocets** were one at Poplar I. on June 6 (Scarpulla), one at

Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla), 22 there from June 30 through July 7, increasing to 23 on July 14–21, and 24 on July 28 (Bystrak +), one at Four Corners on July 23 (Hafner +), and one (possibly the latter bird) at Ridgely on July 25 (Brewer, Eric & Howard Gofreed).

**Sandpipers.** A **Greater Yellowlegs** at Queenstown on June 1–9 (Poet), one at Blackwater on June 12 (Homan), and one heard at Rigby's Folly on June 14 (G. Armistead) may have been spring stragglers, but one at Nanjemoy Creek on June 25 (Jett, Brewer), eight at Deal Island WMA on July 2 (C. & D. Broderick), three at Elliott I. on July 4 (Lovelace), and two at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin) were more likely fall migrants. One **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) was left from the spring migration and 40 there on June 30 (Bystrak) were the first noted for the fall. Numbers of Lessers at Hart-Miller increased quickly to 474 on July 7 and 1,020 on July 14 (Bystrak +). Other Lessers of note were one at Elliott I. on July 4 (Lovelace), four at North Beach on July 10 (Stasz), one at KAG on July 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two at UMCF on July 11 (Arnold), and 149 at Four Corners on July 23 (Stasz +). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) was exceptionally late; early fall birds were one at Herrington Harbor on July 6 (Stasz), five at Loch Raven the same day (Lev), and one at Fulton on July 7 (Solem). Single migrant **Willets** were four Easterns at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla), one of unspecified subspecies at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak), one Western at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz +), one Western at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Stasz +), and one Western at Hains Point on July 30 (Pisano). Seven Eastern Willets at Poplar I. on June 6 (Scarpulla) were probably nesting. A **Spotted Sandpiper** at Lake Elkhorn on June 10 (J. Coskren) and one heard at Henryton, HO on June 26 (Arnold) are difficult to place in migration. One downy young Spotted was at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin). An **Upland Sandpiper** was unexpected at North Branch on June 4 (Paulus), two migrants were at PRNAS on July 25 (Rambo), and five were still on the breeding grounds at Trout Run on Aug. 4 (Pope). Two **Whimbrels** were at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz). Spring **Ruddy Turnstones** this summer were one at North Beach on June 7–8 (Stasz) and one at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla); a fall migrant was at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin). The only **Red Knot** of the season was at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla). **Sanderlings** are always difficult to separate into the spring and fall migrations, but four at Poplar Island on June 6 (Scarpulla), three at Elliott on June 6 (Arnold), and two at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) are best treated as spring birds, while one at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak) could have been going either way. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** numbered 2,075 at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) but had dropped to 48 on June 9 (Scarpulla). Other spring migrants were 139 at Poplar Island on June 6 (Scarpulla), two at North Beach on June 8 (Stasz), nine at North Branch on June 17 (Paulus, Simons). One Semi at North Branch on June 25 (Paulus) could have been going either way. Fall Semis were one at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin) increasing to 1,870 on July 28 (Stasz, Bystrak +), one at KAG on July 13 (Paul), and two at Mason Dixon Farm on July 15 (Ringler). Reports of **Western Sandpipers** were 355 at Hart-Miller on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin), six at Four Corners on July 27 (Stasz, Hafner), and one at Oxon Cove on July 31 (Mozurkewich). Late spring **Least Sandpipers** were two at North Branch on June 1 (Paulus), one at North Beach on June 8 (Stasz), and one at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla); early fall birds were 17 at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak), six at Elliott and seven at Hog Island, CN on July 4 (Lovelace). Peak numbers of Leasts were 755 at Hart-Miller on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin), 247 at Four Corners on July 23 (Stasz), 36 at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz), 30 at Loch Raven on July 26 (Terry, Lev), and 62 at Hurlock on July 27 (Hafner, Stasz). The last **White-rumped Sandpipers** of the spring were 7 at North Branch on June 1 (Paulus) and 12 at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla). The first **Pectoral Sandpiper** of the fall was at Loch Raven on July 19 (Lev), and highs were 14 at Four Corners on July 23 (Stasz), 16 at Kingman Lake on July 27 (Bowen),

and 15 at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). Scarpulla observed the last spring **Dunlins** with nine at Poplar Island on June 6 and one at Hart-Miller on June 9. A **Curlew Sandpiper** at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) was a great shorebird find for the season. A very late spring **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz); the first fall bird was at Loch Raven on June 29 (Lev), followed by 12 at Hart-Miller on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin), increasing to 98 on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +), one at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz, Bystrak), and seven at Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin). A female **Ruff** at Four Corners on July 23-24 (Hafner +) was another great find. The last **Short-billed Dowitchers** for the spring were one at Queenstown on June 1 (Poet), 31 at Hart-Miller on June 2 (Scarpulla, Boltz) and two at Poplar Island on June 6 (Scarpulla); the first fall birds were three at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak), one at Mason Dixon Farm on July 15 (Ringler), one at Loch Raven on July 22 (Terry, Steve Simon), two at Four Corners on July 23 (Stasz), and two at North Beach on July 23 (Harten). The peak for Short-bills was 323 at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). The only **Long-billed Dowitcher** of the season was a calling adult at Four Corners on July 27 (Stasz, Hafner). A juvenile **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Hart-Miller on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin).

**Gulls.** Non-breeding **Laughing Gulls** at Hart-Miller included eight on June 9 (Scarpulla), and post-breeding dispersal brought 150 there by July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin). Feeding in Eastern Shore fields were 325 Laughers at Four Corners on July 23 (Stasz) and 750 at Hurlock on July 27 (Hafner, Stasz). A **Bonaparte's Gull** in second-summer plumage was at the Frederick Douglass Bridge in DC on July 31 (Jett). **Ring-billed Gulls** at Hart-Miller peaked at 1,373 on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin). Noticeable fall arrivals of Ring-billed Gulls were one juvenile at North Beach on July 14 (Ed Boyd, Stasz), one at Ellicott City on July 18 (Ott), three adults at St. Michaels on July 18 (Reese), and one juvenile at River Terrace Park on July 27 (Bowen). Scarpulla saw about 20 nests of **Herring Gulls** and 255 birds at Poplar Island on June 6, about 25 pairs were nesting at Holland I. on June 17 (H. Armistead, Erwin), and Arnold and Maloney saw about 12 downy young at Bodkin I. on July 6 with about 100 birds present. A sub-adult Herring Gull was at Cumberland on June 17 (Paulus, Simons). Four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (one third-summer, one second-summer, and two first-summer) were found at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Stasz, Bystrak +). Breeding **Great Black-backed Gulls** included two pairs at Holland I. on June 17 (H. Armistead, Erwin) and several juveniles among 50 birds at Bodkin I. on July 6 (Arnold, Maloney). Great Black-backs at Hart-Miller peaked at 1,224 on July 21 (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin). The **Kelp Gull** continued at Sandgates through the period (Kostenko).

**Terns.** One **Caspian Tern** wandered to Blackwater on June 17 (H. Armistead, Erwin). Caspian Terns peaked at 214 on July 21 at Hart-Miller (Ricciardi, Stasz, Erwin). **Royal Terns** in Chesapeake Bay included two at Poplar I. on June 6 (Scarpulla), four at North Beach on June 8 (Stasz), and two at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) increasing to six on July 14 (Ricciardi, Bystrak +). Brinker counted 570 Royal Tern eggs at Ocean City on June 6, and John Weske and party banded 417 juvenile Royal Terns there on July 11; another 120 were banded there on Aug. 6, and a bird banded at Metomkin Island, Virginia in 1984 was recovered. Scarpulla estimated 150 nests of **Common Terns** and 355 birds at Poplar Island on June 6 and Brinker estimated 200 pairs there on July 8. Wandering Common Terns included one at Kingman Lake on June 17 (Paul), two at Hart-Miller on June 30 (Bystrak), one at North Beach on July 10 (Stasz), and 57 at Cedar Point, PRNAS on July 30 (Rambo). Post-breeding dispersal of **Forster's Terns** was noted with one at Tanyard on July 4 (Lovelace) and six at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin); the only Piedmont report was two adults at Seneca on July 23 (Todd). Scarpulla saw about five nests of **Least Terns** and about 20 birds at Poplar

Island on June 6. About 165 Leasts were at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +). The only reports of **Black Terns** were one immature at Poplar Island on June 6 (Scarpulla) and one at North Beach on July 16 (Stasz, Boyd).

*Cuckoos, Owls, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Sapsuckers.* The only Coastal Plain reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were one at Bristol, AA on June 25 (Stasz), two at Ridge on July 15 (J. Robinson), and one at Mount Calvert on Aug. 1 (Shaffer). Lovelace noted an adult **Barn Owl** feeding young in a box at Elliott on July 4. An adult and three young **Barred Owls** were seen at Colesville, MO on June 11 (James Marcketich). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Aaron Run on July 14 (Ringler) and one was at Dan's Rock on Aug. 9-11 (Susan Sires). A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was incubating two eggs in a nest at Gortner on July 21 (Pope). A **Belted Kingfisher** at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) was unusual. Fran Pope reports that **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had another successful nesting season in Garrett Co.

*Flycatcher, Shrike, Vireos, Crows, Larks, Swallows, Nuthatches.* An **Acadian Flycatcher** at St. Michaels on June 15 (Reese) may have been a late migrant. The only **Loggerhead Shrike** of the season was at North Branch on June 1 (Paulus). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was out of range singing at Soldiers Delight from June 24 through July 4 (Ringler +); Stasz felt that the bird was subspecies *altilcola* based on the quality of the song. Two **Warbling Vireos** at Upper Marlboro on June 5 (Shaffer) and one at Denton on June 12 (Nuttle) may have been late migrants. Two singing Warbling Vireos were at Centreville on July 10 and one was still singing on Aug. 7 (Reese). Paulus noted seven **Fish Crows** at North Branch on June 25; a Fish Crow was feeding a fledgling at Fletchers Boathouse on June 29 (Mackiernan, Cooper). An adult and three juvenile **Horned Larks** were in western Howard Co. on July 19 (Arnold). **Purple Martins** were still feeding young in a nest house at Gortner on July 22 (Pope). **Tree Swallow** numbers at Hart-Miller grew from 45 on June 30 (Bystrak) to 706 on July 14 (Bystrak, Ricciardi +). An adult Tree Swallow carrying a white feather near Trout Run WWTP on July 6 (Pope) may have been adding to a nest. Woodward noted 40 migrant **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at McKee-Beshers on July 8. About 320 **Bank Swallows** were at Hart-Miller on July 7 (Bystrak, Erwin). Stasz found **Cliff Swallows** nesting under the bridge over the Nanticoke River at Sharptown, WI, a rare Coastal Plain event. Two migrant Cliff Swallows were at Hart-Miller on July 14 (Ricciardi, Bystrak +). Iliff and Hafner noted the following swallows at Denton on June 20, probably representing post-breeding dispersal: three Trees, 25 Rough-wings, one Bank, and three **Barn Swallows**. A **Tufted Titmouse** pair brought five fledglings to a St. Michaels feeder on June 28 (Reese). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard at New Germany SP on July 15 (Ringler). A male with two juvenile **White-breasted Nuthatches** was at Parsonsburg on July 4 (Pitney). An adult **Brown-headed Nuthatch** brought two juveniles to a St. Michaels feeder on Aug. 8 (Reese).

*Wrens, Starlings, Waxwings.* A **House Wren** nest at St. Michaels contained two eggs and three young on July 14 (Reese). The only **Sedge Wren** of the season was at Elliott on June 6 (Arnold). A **Marsh Wren** was at KAG from June 25 through the season (Bowen +); the only inland report was one at Lilypons on July 21 (Bob & Toni Hartman). A flock of 1,400 juvenile **European Starlings** was at Taneytown, CL on July 15 (Ringler). A flock of 30 **Cedar Waxwings** at Marriottsville on June 30 (Sunell, Wright) was unusual for the date.

*Warblers, Tanager.* A male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen at New Germany SP on July 15 (Ringler). A pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** was feeding a fledgling on Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold). A fledged young **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Soldiers Delight on June 24 (Ringler); a migrant was banded at PRNAS on July 21 (Bob Boxwell) and

a migrant was seen at Hart-Miller on July 28 (Bystrak, Stasz +) and another was at Elliott the same day (H. Armistead, Erwin). Two **American Redstarts** at PWRC-North, AA on June 17 (E. & N. Kirschbaum) were notable. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** at Woodstock on June 23 (D. & J. Coskren) may have been a locally rare breeder and one in the village of Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin) may have been an early fall migrant. An **Ovenbird** feigning a broken wing was seen at Cromwell Valley Park on June 17 (McDonald). Paul O'Brien noted a migrant **Louisiana Waterthrush** at UWBP on July 31. A **Kentucky Warbler** was feigning a broken wing at McKeldin on July 4 (D. & M. Harvey). A **Summer Tanager** was seen at McKee-Beshers on July 6 (Mark Garland).

*Sparrows, Dickcissels.* The **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Kinder Farm Park remained through July 27 (Farner +). Fledged young **Field Sparrows** were seen at Soldiers Delight on June 24 (Ringler). A **Vesper Sparrow** singing near Snow Hill on June 16 (Dyke) was a rarity for Worcester Co. A **Savannah Sparrow** at Hart-Miller on June 9 (Scarpulla) was a very late migrant; one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 2 (Arnold, Bowen +) cannot be explained. A large concentration of 50-75 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was at Western RP on June 9 (Magnusson, Solem) and at least 40 juveniles were seen there on July 4 (Ott). At Chino Farms about 160 singing males were holding territory this summer (Hafner). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were at Kenilworth Park on June 25 (Bowen). Three singing **Henslow's Sparrows** were on a reclaimed strip mine near Wallman, GA on July 7 (Pope). About 13 **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** and 30 **Seaside Sparrows** were at Elliott on July 28 (H. Armistead, Erwin). An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** at North Branch on June 16 (Kiddy) was an extraordinary summer record. Reports of **Dickcissels** were a male at Tracys Landing, AA on June 2 (Stasz), six near Buckeystown, FR on June 3 (Schwarz), two singing males at Pemberton Manor, QA on June 20 (Iliff, Hafner), a male at Jewell, AA on July 17 (Stasz), a singing male near Greensboro on July 23 (Stasz), a pair nest-building at Chino Farms on July 23 with four young fledging on Aug. 16 (Hafner), and a male near Ingleside on July 28 (Poet).

*Icterids.* A female **Bobolink** near Lilypons on June 9 (Felley) may have been a late migrant or a breeder. Fall migrant Bobolinks were one at Chino Farms on July 17 (Hafner), and two at Easton and one near Oakland, CN on July 27 (Stasz, Hafner). A **Red-winged Blackbird** with two recently fledged young was at St. Michaels on June 8 (Reese). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** that was barely able to fly was being fed by a pair of **Song Sparrows** at St. Michaels on June 8 (Reese) and a fledgling cowbird was being fed by an Ovenbird on July 4 at Woodstock (Schwarz). **Orchard Orioles** nested successfully at Gortner this season (Pope). A family group of **Baltimore Orioles** was seen at Kinder Farm Park on June 16 (Farner).

## FALL MIGRATION: AUG. 1-NOV. 30, 2001

Few cold fronts moving across the region resulted in few big migration days. Still there were plenty of rarities to spice the season.

*Loons, Grebes.* A **Red-throated Loon** flying past Terrapin on Sept. 29 (Hafner, Stasz, Baer +) was the only one reported from Chesapeake Bay; 50 were at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). Reports of **Common Loons** included three at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 22 (H. Armistead), one at Selby Bay on Sept. 29 (Mozurkewich), 14 flying over Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise), 35 in the mouth of the Miles River and Wye River, QA/TA on Nov. 10 (Reese), and 17 at Point Lookout on Nov. 22 (Stasz). Early **Pied-billed Grebes** were one at Centennial Lake on Aug. 7 (Arnold), a juvenile at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11 (Stasz, Graff), and one at Jug Bay on Aug. 14 (Bystrak). About 25 Pied-bills were at Havre de Grace

on Sept. 15 (Hafner, Powell, Stasz), 12 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 10 (Peruzzi), 17 at Loch Raven on Oct. 16 (Jenkins), and 14 at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler). The only **Red-necked Grebe** of the fall was at Cumberland on Nov. 13 (Paulus). An **Eared Grebe** appeared at Hurlock on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer, Stasz) and on Oct. 27 (Arnold).

*Tubenoses, Gannets, Pelicans.* A pelagic trip on Aug. 20 produced the following sightings in Maryland waters: 14 **Cory's Shearwaters**, one **Audubon's Shearwater**, and 138 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (Iliff +). The first **Northern Gannets** seen this fall were four off Assateague on Oct. 13 (Stasz); 30 were off Point Lookout on Nov. 12 (Craig) and 300 were seen at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). An **American White Pelican** was seen off Kent Island near the Bay Bridge on Nov. 12 (Bruce Peterjohn). Chesapeake Bay sightings of **Brown Pelicans** were one off Cedarhurst, AA on Aug. 11 (Anne Sundermann), one near Parsons I., QA on Aug. 19 (Graff, Schreitz), two at Point Lookout on Nov. 22 (Stasz), and two at Point No Point, SM on Nov. 24 (Craig). In the vicinity of the bay's major pelican breeding sites on Sept. 1 there were 30 at Crocheron, 90 at South Marsh Island, 860 at Spring Island (including 40 non-flying birds), and 235 at Pone Island (H. Armistead). Stasz and Krogh counted 77 Brown Pelicans at Assateague on Oct. 27.

*Cormorants.* High counts of **Double-crested Cormorants** were 250 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 19 (Reese), 250 at Turkey Point on Oct. 16 (Fisher), 225 at Fort McHenry on Oct. 21 (Costley), and 800 at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Stasz, Krogh). Also notable were 31 cormorants flying over Polish Mountain on Sept. 14 (Paulus), 18 flying over Table Rock on Sept. 29 (Felton, Calise), and 21 flying east of Grantsville on Oct. 27 (Pope). Late cormorants were two at Broadford Lake on Oct. 28 (Pope), one at St. Michaels on Nov. 18 (Reese), 38 at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders), and one at Denton on Nov. 27 (Reese). An immature **Great Cormorant** was at Havre de Grace on Sept. 2-15 (Blom +), one was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +), and one at Ocean City from Oct. 26 (Stasz +).

*Herons, Ibises, Vultures.* The only **American Bitterns** of the season were one at Meadowbrook on Oct. 10-23 (Ott, Holdridge +), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 27 (Stasz, Krogh), and one at Herrington Harbor on Oct. 28 (Stasz, Krogh). A late **Least Bittern** was at Holland Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Craig counted 28 **Great Blue Herons** at Elms Beach on Aug. 19, 25 were at Tilghman Island on Aug. 19 (Reese), and there were 17 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 29 (Scarpulla +). A first for the state was a white morph of the Great Blue Heron, known as the Great White Heron, at Fort McHenry and Masonville in Baltimore on Sept. 26-30 (Peters +). Inland **Great Egrets** included eight at Lilypons on Aug. 1 (Todd), 13 at UMCF on Aug. 7 (Wes Earp), six at Oak Grove on Sept. 2 (Lovelace), and a late one at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 30 (Arnold). The high for **Snowy Egrets** was 133 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold); two were at KAG on Aug. 27 (Hilton). Interesting reports of **Little Blue Herons** were one immature at Lilypons on Aug. 1 (Todd), three at Kingman Lake on Aug. 4 (Hubbell), four immatures at Rock Hall on Aug. 5 (Hafner, Stasz), 60 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold), one at Harford Glen on Aug. 23 through Sept. 16 (Powell +), 41 at Holland Island on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), and four at West Ocean City on Oct. 27 (Arnold). Reports of **Tricolored Herons** were one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), one at Scotland on Aug. 12 and three at Point Lookout the next day (Craig), 24 at Holland Island on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), 80 at Assateague on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer), four at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 10 (Weesner), and one at West Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). Concentrations of **Cattle Egrets** included 50 at Millersville, AA on Aug. 9 (Schreitz), 100 at Ocean City and 50 at West Ocean City on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), 42 at Scotland on Aug. 28 (Craig), 30 flying over Overlea, BC on Sept. 8 (Futral), and 25 at Long Green, BA on Sept. 16 (Jenkins);

late were four at Eagles Landing Golf Course, WO on Nov. 10 (N. & F. Saunders). The last **Green Heron** of the season was at Point Lookout on Oct. 30 (Craig). Inland **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included an immature at Ashton on Aug. 8 (Sussman), an immature at Cumberland on Aug. 23 (Kiddy), two at Lake Kittamaqundi on Oct. 9 (Martha Chestem), and one at Lake Roland on Oct. 16 (E. Kirschbaum). The last **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** of the year was an immature at Fort McHenry on Sept. 28 (Hafner, Stasz). An immature **White Ibis** at Cumberland on Aug. 15 (Paulus) was amazing. A **Glossy Ibis** at Havre de Grace on Aug. 4 (Stasz) was the only one in the upper part of the bay; others were two at Glen Burnie, AA on Aug. 12 (Stasz), 75 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold) with three on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), one at Horsehead on Aug. 25 (Graff, Dobson), and a final three at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 10 (Weesner). Alexander found about 50 **Black Vultures** near Sandy Hook, WA on Sept. 9. About 145 **Turkey Vultures** kettled over Martin Mountain, AL on Sept. 10 (Paulus), 95 were at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 21 (H. Armistead), and about 225 were roosting at Easton on Oct. 25 (Reese, Allen).

*Whistling-Duck, Geese, Swans.* Very rare in the state a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was seen at Jug Bay on Aug. 14 (Bystrak, Kearns +). Two **Snow Geese** at Hurlock on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead) and three at Ocean Pines on Aug. 24 (Hoffman) had summered. The first migrant Snow Geese were four blues at Unionville, TA on Sept. 27 (Roslund) followed by birds at several locations on Sept. 29 with the most notable being six flying over Table Rock (Felton, Calise). Unusual inland were one at Street, HA on Oct. 24 (Powell), three at Pylesville on Nov. 2-3 (L. Fry), four, including two blues, at Broadford Lake on Nov. 3 (Pope), one blue at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler), and one blue at APL the same day (Magnusson). Two **Ross's Geese** were near Centreville on Oct. 19 (Poet) and two at Blackwater on Oct. 28 (H. Armistead +). Summering **Canada Geese** included 150 at St. Michaels on Aug. 8 and 150 at Newcomb, TA on Aug. 9 (Reese). Many observers reported migrant Canadas on Sept. 15 with the first major flight on Sept. 29. Paulus found 1,600 massed on the Potomac River at Cumberland on Nov. 14. Single small race Canada Geese were at Tunis Mills on Oct. 1 (Roslund), Turkey Point on Oct. 7 (Hafner), the 4-H Club Park near Centreville on Oct. 19 (Poet), and Blackwater on Oct. 28 (H. Armistead +), and a remarkable 16 were at Chino Farms on Nov. 4 (Hafner, Gruber). A **Brant** at Eagles Nest on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer) probably summered locally. The first migrants were very early with six at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Arnold) and one at Chesapeake Beach on Oct. 1 (Bystrak); one at Crofton on Oct. 22 (Perry) and one at Cumberland on Nov. 15 (Paulus) were out of place. Concentrations of **Mute Swans** were 108 at Eastern Neck on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), 900 at Bloodsworth Island on Aug. 15 (Rambo), 150 at Bozman, TA on Aug. 16 (Roslund), and 375 at Pone Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). The 221 **Tundra Swans** flying over Hart-Miller on Sept. 29 (Scarpulla +) were extraordinarily early. These were followed by four flying over Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise).

*Puddle Ducks.* The high counts of **Wood Ducks** were 75 at Tanyard on Aug. 14 (Engle) and 50 at Queenstown on Oct. 2 (Reese). Two **Gadwalls** at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1-8 (Scarpulla +) were unusually early; a high of 34 was at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at West Ocean City on Oct. 20-27 (Hafner +). Early **American Wigeons** were one at Piney Run on Sept. 9 (Ringler) and nine at Loch Raven on Sept. 12 (Jenkins); 140 were at Loch Raven on Oct. 16 (Jenkins). A high of 618 **Mallards** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 25 (Scarpulla +) and 300 were at Rocky Gap on Sept. 21 (Paulus). Schwarz saw three semi-downy young Mallards with a hen at Centennial on Sept. 12. Early **Blue-winged Teals** were one at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner) and one at Horsehead the same day (Graff); a high of 35 was at Triadelphia on Sept. 25 (Ott, Solem). Early **Northern Shovelers**

were two at PWRC on Aug. 8 (Bystrak), one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18 (Ricciardi +), 10 at Assateague and two at Berlin on Aug. 29 (Hoffman +), 13 at Schooley Mill Park on Aug. 30 (Hafner), and one at Piney Run on Sept. 9 (Ringler); highs of 125 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold) and 177 at Hurlock on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead, Sparks) were tallied. One **Northern Pintail** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +) was early. An early **Green-winged Teal** was at Chestertown on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner) and the first inland was at Loch Raven on Aug. 18 (Jenkins); highs were 320 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold), 175 at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund), and 52 at Loch Raven on Nov. 11 (Jenkins).

**Diving Ducks.** About 125 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Broadford Lake on Oct. 28 (Pope) and 480 were at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler). A male **Greater Scaup** was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +). A male **Lesser Scaup** at Fort Washington, PG on Sept. 1 (Shaffer) probably summered locally. The high inland count of Lessers was 54 at Triadelphia on Oct. 28 (Magnusson). Two **Common Eiders** were seen at Ocean City on Nov. 10 (Churchill) and a **Harlequin Duck** was there on Nov. 9-24 (Stasz +). Three **Surf Scoters** were seen near Tilghman I. on Aug. 25 by Harry and Liz Armistead; the first migrants to be noted were 600 at Assateague on Oct. 13 (Stasz). Two **White-winged Scoters** near Horsehead on Sept. 30 (Graff) may have summered locally; the only migrants reported were two at Point Lookout on Nov. 5 (Craig), one at Ocean City on Nov. 10 (Churchill), and one at Tilghman Island on Nov. 25 (Reese, Steilke). A **Black Scoter** was at Tilghman Island on Sept. 15 (Reese, Willey, Ford), rather early to be a migrant. The first **Bufflehead** of the season was at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla, Bystrak); 71 were at Point Lookout on Nov. 5 (Craig), 48 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 20 (Weesner), and about 500 at Assateague on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). A female **Hooded Merganser** at Hart-Miller from Aug. 11 through Sept. 8 (Stasz +) may have nested in the region; the first migrant was reported on Oct. 26 at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 26 (Pisano). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at Turkey Point on Oct. 1 (Johnston) was quite early. A **Ruddy Duck** at Berlin on Sept. 15 (Richard, Krogh) may have summered there; the first migrants were 30 at Hurlock on Sept. 29 (Hafner, Stasz) and two at Upper Marlboro the same day (Harry Lotis). The highs for Ruddy Ducks were 400 at Broadford Lake and 700 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 3 (Pope), 2,500 at Wright's Neck, QA on Nov. 13 (Reese), and 1,280 at Hurlock on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead, Sparks).

**Diurnal Raptors.** Several **Mississippi Kites** appeared in the state during August with two near Passapae Landing, CN on the 19<sup>th</sup> (Iliff, Day, Holly Mercer), one at Bowie on the 21<sup>st</sup> (Fallon), one at Upper Marlboro on the 21<sup>st</sup> with two there on Sept. 10 (Stasz), and one at Ellicott City on the 29<sup>th</sup> (Ott, Zeichner). A **Bald Eagle** was surprising at Cumberland on Aug. 23 (Kiddy) as was an adult at YRR on Sept. 2 (Pope). The first migrant **Northern Harrier** of the season was at Jug Bay on Aug. 11 (Bystrak). Early **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were one at Federalsburg on Aug. 12 (Scudder), one at Marriottsville on Aug. 24 (Ott), one at Pennyfield on Aug. 31 (Homan), and one at McKee-Beshers on Sept. 2 (Tony Futcher). A count of 87 migrating Sharp-shins was made at Hooper I. on Oct. 28 (H. Armistead, Willey). Early **Cooper's Hawks** were one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11 (Stasz, Graff), an immature at Parsonsburg on Aug. 14 (Pitney), one at Point Lookout on Aug. 21 (Craig), one at Ellicott City on Aug. 21 (Ott), and one at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Reese). **Northern Goshawks** away from the hawkwatches were an immature at Town Hill on Oct. 13 (Paulus, Kiddy +), an adult flying over Upper Marlboro on Oct. 23 (Shaffer), an immature at Layhill on Oct. 27 (Sussman), an immature in Howard Co. near Laurel on Oct. 30 (Sheppard), and an immature at UMCF on Oct. 31 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). The first migrant **Broad-winged Hawk** this fall was at Chino Farms on Aug. 16 (Hafner); the first big flights occurred on Sept. 16 with 250 at Harford Glen (Hafner, Larkin), 2,000 at Cromwell Valley Park (McDonald), 1,500 at Cyburn (Sanford),

2,000 at Schooley Mill Park in the morning (Magnusson +) and 2,240 at Ellicott City in the afternoon (Ott), thousands at Meadowside Nature Center, MO (Sussman), and 4,500 at Centennial (Mike Kerwin). The next day there were 2,182 at Cromwell Valley Park (Jim Meyers +). This flight completely bypassed the Turkey Point hawkwatch (see Table 1). In Baltimore significant later flights of Broad-wings were 320 at Fort McHenry on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Costley) and 148 at Gardenville on Sept. 29 (Graff). Very late Broad-wings were one at Pylesville on Oct. 13 (J. & L. Fry), one at Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 20 (Sanford, N. & F. Saunders), and three at Alpha Ridge on Oct. 24 (Maloney). A count of 110 migrating **Red-tailed Hawks** was made at Hooper Island on Oct. 28 (H. Armistead, Willey). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was near Daisy on Nov. 3 (Wallace) and one was at Bridge Creek on Nov. 19 (C. & D. Broderick). **Golden Eagles** reported away from Turkey Point were an immature at Town Hill on Oct. 13 (Paulus +), one at Randallstown on Oct. 20 (Sanford), an immature at Dublin, HA on Oct. 31 (Michael Sankovich), two at Pylesville on Nov. 2 (J. & L. Fry), two adults at Town Hill on both Nov. 5 and Nov. 7 (Paulus), and one at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead +). Early **Merlins** were single birds at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 with two on Sept. 15 (Scarpulla +), Belmont on Sept. 1 (Ott +), Holland Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), Assateague on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer), and Point Lookout on Sept. 11 (Craig). Other multiple sightings were two at Jug Bay on Oct. 6 (Bystrak), six at Town Hill on Oct. 16 (Paulus), and two at Centennial on Oct. 21 (Schwarz +). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Ellicott City on Sept. 25 (Ott), one was at Jug Bay on Oct. 6 (Bystrak), one was at Dameron on Oct. 22 (Craig), two were at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 26 (Pisano), and one was at Columbia on Nov. 1 (E. Metter).

**TABLE 1. MIGRANT VULTURES AND DIURNAL RAPTORS  
AT TURKEY POINT, CECIL COUNTY, FALL 2001**  
Compiled by Dave Kimball

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	9/21	11/25	51	8 on 10/16
Turkey Vulture	9/1	11/25	450	45 on 10/16, 39 on 10/19
Osprey	9/1	10/21	90	10 on 9/21
Bald Eagle	8/31	11/25	208	20 on 10/26, 13 on 10/19
Northern Harrier	9/3	11/25	46	7 on 10/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/1	11/25	2,392	180 on 10/7, 149 on 10/21
Cooper's Hawk	8/31	11/24	204	20 on 9/29, 16 on 10/7
Northern Goshawk	0/7	10/30	4	2 on 10/7, also 1 on 10/15
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/5	11/23	325	38 on 10/30, 26 on 10/19
Broad-winged Hawk	9/5	11/5	213	76 on 9/30
Red-tailed Hawk	9/5	11/25	886	123 on 10/28, 94 on 10/19
Golden Eagle	10/26	11/11	4	2 on 11/11, also 1 on 10/27
American Kestrel	8/31	11/7	199	54 on 10/7
Merlin	9/7	11/23	49	9 on 10/16
Peregrine Falcon	9/8	11/5	20	3 on 9/26
Unidentified Raptors			64	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8/31</b>	<b>11/25</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>328 on 10/19, 282 on 10/7</b>

290 hours of observation on 80 days.

**TABLE 2. MIGRANT VULTURES AND DIURNAL RAPTORS  
AT TABLE ROCK, GARRETT COUNTY, FALL 2001**  
Compiled by Gary Felton

SPECIES	9/29	10/28
Black Vulture	4	
Turkey Vulture	not counted	not counted
Osprey	9	
Bald Eagle	1	1
Northern Harrier		2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	3
Cooper's Hawk	2	3
Northern Goshawk		2
Broad-winged Hawk	17	
Red-tailed Hawk	33	291
American Kestrel	1	
Merlin	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74+</b>	<b>302+</b>

*Observers: Gary Felton and Phil Calise, both days; Susan Schneider 10/28 only.*

**TABLE 3. MIGRANT DIURNAL RAPTORS  
AT WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK, FALL 2001**  
Compiled by Paul Newton

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Osprey	9/3	10/28	112	28 on 9/19, 13 on 9/8
Bald Eagle	9/3	11/4	34	4 on 9/19 & 10/27
Northern Harrier	9/11	11/6	46	7 on 10/19, 5 on 10/21 & 10/27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/24	11/21	1,093	443 on 10/13, 76 on 10/19
Cooper's Hawk	8/24	11/21	157	36 on 10/24, 23 on 10/19
Northern Goshawk	10/15		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/15	11/11	50	6 on 10/27, 5 on 10/20
Broad-winged Hawk	8/24	10/15	1,196	319 on 9/19, 262 on 9/21
Red-tailed Hawk	9/8	12/9	797	248 on 10/27, 78 on 10/28
Rough-legged Hawk	11/6		1	
Golden Eagle	10/28	11/9	4	also 1 on 11/3 & 11/6
American Kestrel	9/5	11/16	63	7 on 9/11, 6 on 9/9 & 10/6
Merlin	10/6	10/27	22	6 on 10/13, 4 on 10/15 & 10/21
Peregrine Falcon	9/19	10/15	5	3 on 9/19
Unidentified Raptors			95	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8/24</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>500 on 10/13, 374 on 9/19</b>

*311.15 hours of observation on 58 days.*

*Turkeys, Rallids.* The most interesting report of **Wild Turkeys** was eight at JEDS on Oct. 21 (Reese). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 28 (Shaffer) and one was at UMCF on Sept. 1 (Ott). Reports of **Soras** were an immature at Harford Glen on Aug. 11 (Stasz), one at UMCF on Sept. 27 (Magnusson), 12 at Jug Bay on Oct. 5 (Bystrak), one at Meadowbrook on Oct. 10 (Ott, Holdridge), one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 21 (Costley), and one at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund). An immature **Purple Gallinule** was at Lake Artemesia on Sept. 22 (Wade Stephen +). Highs for **American Coots** were 500 at Loch Raven on Oct. 27 (Sanford), 500 on the Potomac River in DC on Oct. 29 (Shaffer), and 125 at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler).

*Plovers.* Interesting reports of **Black-bellied Plovers** were one at PRNAS on Aug. 9 (Rambo), one at Salisbury on Sept. 2-3 (Dyke +), eight at Pone Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 106 at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), one at Triadelphia on Sept. 24 through Oct. 2 (Maloney +), and 95 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold). **American Golden-Plovers** numbered two at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 25 (Stasz +), one at Salisbury on Aug. 26-27 (Dyke +), 10 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 and 39 there on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla +), one at Assateague on Sept. 2 and Oct. 13 (Stasz), one at Fulton on Sept. 15 (Schwarz, John Finedore) and two there on Sept. 26 through Oct. 2 (Arnold), one at Triadelphia on Sept. 20-25 (Arnold +), one at Green Manor Turf Farm, HO on Sept. 25-26 (Arnold +), two at Jug Bay on Sept. 30 (Bystrak), one at Selby Bay on Oct. 7 (Mozurkewich), and a very late one at Cumberland on Nov. 11 (Paulus). Notable **Semipalmated Plovers** were one at Lilypons on Aug. 4 (Shaffer), seven at Havre de Grace on Aug. 4 (Stasz), 21 at Horsehead on Aug. 12 (Schreitz), 100 at Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), one at Triadelphia on Sept. 6-25 (Sussman +), 60 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +), 1 at YRR on Sept. 8 (Arnold), 10 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga), one at Elms Beach on Oct. 14 (Craig), and one at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund). The only reports of **Piping Plovers** were one on Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Aug. 12 (N. & F. Saunders) and one at Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman). Highs for **Killdeer** were 50 at YRR on Sept. 2 (Pope), 69 at Salisbury on Sept. 2 (Stasz), 66 near Queen Anne, QA on Oct. 19 (Poet), and 150 at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund).

*Oystercatchers, Avocets.* At least 26 **American Oystercatchers** remained at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). **American Avocets** at Hart-Miller peaked at 51 on Aug. 25 (Scarpulla +). Other avocets were two at Selby Bay on Aug. 5 (Mozurkewich, Ringler), one at Jug Bay on Aug. 8 and Sept. 30 (Bystrak), one at Westminster on Sept. 3 (Ringler +), nine at Herrington Harbor on Sept. 5 (Stasz), one at Solomons on Sept. 5 (John Horton), and one at Triadelphia on Oct. 7 (E. & J. Metter +).

*Tringine Sandpipers.* Highs for **Greater Yellowlegs** were 39 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold), 20 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 29 at Joppatowne on Oct. 24 (P. Powers); eight late birds were at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). Highs for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 1,213 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +) and 65 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga); one late bird was at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). A late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 10 (Peruzzi). The high for **Willets** was 54 (mostly westerns) at Assateague on Sept. 2 (Stasz); others were a juvenile western at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), six at Bloodsworth Island on Aug. 15 (Rambo), a juvenile western at Anacostia Park on Aug. 11 (Pisano), and one at Hart-Miller on Oct. 13 (Scarpulla +). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Triadelphia on Nov. 12 (Arnold, Maloney). Reports of migrant **Upland Sandpipers** were seven near Lilypons on Aug. 1 (Dalcio Dacol), 16 at PRNAS on Aug. 3 with two remaining on Sept. 4 (Rambo), one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), three at Hopewell Corner near Chestertown on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), four at

Central Sod Farms on Aug. 13 (Arnold) with one remaining through Sept. 6 (Fallon), one at Chino Farms on Aug. 16 (Hafner), one near Cambridge on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead), two at Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), and 30 at the Salisbury Airport on Aug. 27 (Dyke).

*Whimbrels, Godwits, Turnstones.* **Whimbrels** at Assateague peaked at 29 on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold). The only **Hudsonian Godwit** of the season was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 29 to Oct. 6 (Scarpulla +). The only **Marbled Godwits** were one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 25 through Sept. 1 and on Sept. 29 (Scarpulla +) and one at Eagles Nest on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer). Single **Ruddy Turnstones** at unexpected sites were at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 27 (Poet), Havre de Grace on Sept. 1 (Hafner), Holland Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and Triadelphia on Sept. 4-5 (Arnold +); two were at PRNAS on Aug. 21 (Rambo).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* The only **Red Knot** of the season was at Ocean City on Aug. 15 (Hafner, Bryan Byrnes). Interesting reports of **Sanderlings** were one at Oxon Cove on Aug. 3 and Sept. 22 (Mozurkewich), 2,050 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold), 30 at Bloodsworth I. on Aug. 15 (Rambo), three at Holland I. and 19 at Pone I. on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), one at Jug Bay on Sept. 10 (Bystrak), five at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 14 (Churchill), three at Selby Bay on Sept. 15 and one on Sept. 29 (Mozurkewich), 75 at Hooper I. on Sept. 15 (H. Armistead +), two at Triadelphia on Sept. 20-23 (Arnold +) and one there on Oct. 20 (Magnusson), and three at Point Lookout on Nov. 22 (Stasz). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** peaked at 3,864 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), 224 at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), 150 at Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), and 45 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga). **Western Sandpipers** peaked at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11 with 125 birds (Stasz, Graff); others were one at Four Corners on Aug. 5 (Todd), two at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), two at Assateague on Aug. 24 through Sept. 2 (Hoffman +), 15 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 1 (Hafner), 20 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 20 at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (N. & F. Saunders). Local highs of **Least Sandpipers** were 31 at Loch Raven on Aug. 1 (Jenkins), 67 at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), 28 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 11 (Stasz), 260 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold), 322 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 25 (Scarpulla +), and 40 at Salisbury on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga); late birds were two at Salisbury on Oct. 27 (Arnold) and one at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** included three at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 with four there from Aug. 11 through Oct. 20 (Scarpulla +), one near Centreville on Aug. 7 (Hafner), two at Assateague on Aug. 15 and seven there on Aug. 24 (Hoffman) and two on Oct. 13 (Stasz), one at Terrapin on Aug. 18 (Lev), eight at Salisbury on Aug. 24 (Iliff) and seven there on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga), one at Havre de Grace on Sept. 1 (Hafner), and three at Triadelphia on Sept. 26 with one through Oct. 7 (Magnusson +). Reports of **Baird's Sandpipers** were one at North Branch on Aug. 18-25 (Kiddy), one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 25 with 18 there on Sept. 8 and a final four on Oct. 13 (Scarpulla +), one at Assateague on Sept. 2 (Stasz), one at YRR on Sept. 2-8 (Pope +), one at Salisbury on Sept. 8-15 (Davidson, Wierenga +), and one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 31 through Nov. 12 (Peters +). Highs for **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 16 at PRNAS on Aug. 13 (Craig), 23 at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 18 (Ringler, Terry), 22 at Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), and 40 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +). Iliff found 31 **Purple Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on Nov. 26. Notable **Dunlins** were one at Fulton on Sept. 15 (Schwarz, John Finedore), 94 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold), one at Triadelphia on Oct. 7-8 (Arnold), and 18 at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund). **Stilt Sandpipers** numbered 87 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), 32 at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 11 (Hoffman +), one at Havre de Grace on Aug. 12 (Stasz), one at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 25 (Ringler), one at Salisbury from Aug. 27 (Dyke) through Oct. 28 (Stasz, Krogh) and four there

on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga +), two at YRR on Sept. 8 (Arnold), and three at Triadelphia on Sept. 21 (Solem +) and one through Oct. 7 (Arnold). Single **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 25 (Poet) and Sept. 26 (Roslund), Salisbury on Aug. 29 through Sept. 2 (C. & D. Broderick +), Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 3 (Ringler), and Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold). A surprising four cinnamon-colored **Ruffs** were at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 12 (Fallon, Wilson) and two females were near Centreville on Aug. 18 (Crabtree, Lev, P. Webb).

**Dowitchers, Snipe, Phalaropes.** Highs of **Short-billed Dowitchers** were 24 at Chesapeake Farms on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), 197 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11 (Stasz, Graff), and 59 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold). Two Short-bills at PRNAS on Aug. 9 (Rambo) and one at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 6 (Shaffer) were also notable; six at Hart-Miller on Oct. 13 (Scarpulla +) were late. The only reports of **Long-billed Dowitchers** were two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 and one there on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla +) and one at West Ocean City on Oct. 27 (Stasz, Arnold). An early **Common Snipe** was near Centreville on Aug. 25 (Stasz) and one was at UMCF on Sept. 2 (Ott, Solem +); 15 were at Crouse Park, Denton on Nov. 27 (Reese). Harry Armistead flushed five **American Woodcocks** from his driveway at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 28. There were three **Wilson's Phalaropes** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18-25 (Ricciardi +) and one through Oct. 13 (Scarpulla +). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18 (Ricciardi +) and Sept. 1 (Scarpulla +), three were seen on the Aug. 20 pelagic trip (Iliff +), and two were at Trout Run on Aug. 21 with one remaining the next day (Pope).

**Jaegers, Gulls.** Stasz saw two **Pomarine Jaegers** at Ocean City on Oct. 26. Upland **Laughing Gulls** were limited to Howard Co. with two at Ellicott City on Aug. 20 with 14 there the next day and five on Oct. 5 (Ott) and 12 at Alpha Ridge on Aug. 22 (Arnold). High counts of Laughers were 433 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18 (Ricciardi +), 700 at Assateague and 750 at Ocean City on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), 2,000 at Brown's Station Landfill on Oct. 21 (Jett), 500 at Easton on Oct. 28 (Reese, Roslund), 1,350 on the Anacostia River, DC on Nov. 16 (Hilton, Shannon), and 680 at Hurlock on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead, Sparks). The only **Franklin's Gull** was at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 17 (Shaffer). The only **Black-headed Gull** was an adult at Hurlock on Oct. 15 (Iliff). An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was unexpected at Eagles Nest on Aug. 15 (Hafner, Bryan Byrnes). A winter adult **California Gull** was seen at Hart-Miller on Oct. 6 (Scarpulla, Arnold) and another adult was at Poplar I. on Nov. 26 (Iliff). Hoffman found 410 **Herring Gulls** at Assateague and 300 at Ocean City on Aug. 24, and 647 were at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla, Bystrak). Summertime **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continued at Hart-Miller with three (one each of first-summer, second-summer, and third-summer) on Aug. 4-11 and two through Oct. 20 (Scarpulla +). A first-summer Lesser Black-back was across the bay at Rock Hall on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner), a one-year old bird was at Ocean City on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), an adult was at Salisbury on Sept. 8-15 (Hafner, Baer +), an adult was at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Stasz +), three were at the Worcester County Central Landfill on Nov. 10 (Churchill), and two were on the Anacostia River in DC on Nov. 16 (Hilton, Shannon). A **Glaucoous Gull** was at Sandy Point on Nov. 24 (Wierenga +) and a first-winter bird was at Poplar Island on Nov. 26 (Iliff). **Great Black-backed Gulls** reached a peak of 1,647 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +) and 400 at PRNAS on Sept. 24 (Rambo). The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgate continued to be seen through the season (Kostenko +).

**Terns.** The only **Gull-billed Tern** reported was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 2 (Arnold +). Concentrations of **Caspian Terns** were 88 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 11 (Stasz) and 260 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18 (Ricciardi +); upland birds included five at Loch Raven on Aug. 18 with six there on Sept. 12 (Jenkins) and eight at Triadelphia on Sept. 1 (Ott). A late Caspian

was at Triadelphia on Sept. 27 (Ott +). Hoffman found 245 **Royal Terns** at Assateague and 250 at Ocean City on Aug. 24. In Chesapeake Bay 33 Royals were at Crocheron on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 10 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +), 18 at Kitts Point on Oct. 6 (Craig), and one at Point Lookout on Nov. 5 (Craig). Sightings of **Sandwich Terns** included three at Ocean City on Aug. 3 (Todd), one at Point Lookout on Aug. 21 and one at Kitts Point on Aug. 24 (Craig), one at Scotland on Aug. 28 (Rambo), one at Pone Island on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and 38 at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman) with at least one late bird at Eagles Nest on Sept. 15 (Richard, Krogh) and another at PRNAS on Sept. 24 (Rambo). An adult **Roseate Tern** was at Ocean City on Aug. 3 (Todd). **Common Terns** in the northern part of the Chesapeake included one at Rock Hall on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner) and two at Havre de Grace on Aug. 11 (Stasz); 238 were at Scotland on Aug. 13 (Craig). Notable reports of **Forster's Terns** were three at Brighton Dam on Aug. 3-4 (Arnold +), 178 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 11 (Stasz), 67 at Conowingo Dam on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner), seven at a farm pond in Howard County on Sept. 20 (Arnold), one at Triadelphia on Sept. 23 (Schwarz), 400 at Point Lookout on Oct. 15 (Craig, Cribb), and six at Tilghman Island on Nov. 25 (Reese, Steilke). Scarpulla and party tallied 199 **Least Terns** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 and the last one seen there on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept. Most of the **Black Tern** action was on the Potomac River: Pisano saw 12 at the mouth of Four Mile Run on Aug. 18 and Cooper totaled 25 in DC from Founder's Park in Alexandria, Virginia and 60 in Prince George's Co. waters from Jones Point, also in Alexandria; 40 were still off Jones Point on Aug. 22. Other Black Terns were one near Hebron on Aug. 9 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold), two at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18-25 (Ricciardi +), two at Hurlock on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead), two at Scotland on Aug. 28 (Rambo, Craig), and four at the Waterside Subdivision, PG on Sept. 1 (Shaffer).

*Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids.* The only **Black-billed Cuckoos** reported on the Coastal Plain were one at Hollywood on Aug. 5 (Rambo), one at PRNAS on Aug. 21-25 (Rambo +), and one at Assateague on Oct. 17 (C. & D. Broderick). The latest **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was near Chincoteague on Oct. 5 (T. & C. Dew). A **Snowy Owl** was on Assateague on Nov. 10-11 (P. O'Brien +). Two other Snowy Owls made it to Poplar Island but later died (*fide* Scarpulla). Kevin Dodge banded a **Long-eared Owl** at the Casselman River, GA banding station on Nov. 7. The only **Short-eared Owl** was at PRNAS on Nov. 23 (Rambo). Steve Huy banded his first **Northern Saw-whet Owl** of the season at Lamb's Knoll on Oct. 15, on Oct. 22 captured a bird banded at Kiptopeke, Va. on Dec. 1, 1999, and banded 56 Saw-whets on Oct. 28. Lori Byrnes at Adkins Arboretum banded 13 Saw-whets on Oct. 30. Reports of **Common Night-hawks** included three at Salisbury on Aug. 10 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Silver Spring on Aug. 14 (Eric Raun), two at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 19 (Hubbell), 13 at Sykesville on Aug. 21 (D. Harvey), 21 at Randallstown on Aug. 27 (Sanford), 50 at Dayton, HO on Aug. 31 (Gary Roberts), 20 at North Beach on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 72 at Belmont on Sept. 1 (Ott +), 3 at Broadford Lake on Sept. 12 (Pope), 14 at California on Sept. 18 (T. Bell, Kostenko), three at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner), two at Jug Bay on Oct. 2 (Bystrak), three at Greensboro on Oct. 2 (Scudder), and one at Ellicott City on Oct. 22 (Farner). Reese encountered a **Chuck-will's-widow** at Tilghman Island on Sept. 3. The last **Whip-poor-wills** of the year were one seen roosting at Fort McHenry on Sept. 5 (Peters +), one at Federalsburg on Sept. 6 (Inez Glime), and one heard at Waldorf on Sept. 15 (Jett).

*Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfisher, Woodpeckers.* Concentrations of **Chimney Swifts** were 200 at Berlin on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), 2,416 at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore on Sept. 7 and 4,478 at Hampden in Baltimore on Sept. 8 (Carol Schreter +), 1,375 at Laurel, PG on Sept. 10 (Kathy Klimkiewicz), and 600 at Cambridge on Oct. 13 (Allen); late birds were 82 at Greensboro on Oct. 17 (Scudder), one at Centennial on Oct. 21 (Schwarz +), one at

Silver Spring on Oct. 21 (Hilton), one at Town Hill on Oct. 21 (Paulus), and one at Turkey Point on Oct. 25 (Fisher). Eastman estimated 30 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** on Aug. 12 coming to his 11 feeders at Havre de Grace; other notable numbers were 12 at Tilghman I. on Aug. 19 and Sept. 2 (Reese) and 13 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 25 (Scarpulla +). A very late Ruby-throat was at Great Mills, SM on Oct. 27 (Rambo). A **Rufous Hummingbird** that arrived at Takoma Park, PG on Oct. 30 but died at the hands of a praying mantis on Nov. 3 (Sam Pancake) was the third to visit his yard in 14 years. A migrant **Belted Kingfisher** was at Rigby's Folly on Aug. 18 (H. Armistead). The first migrant **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Turkey Point was seen on Sept. 9 (Fisher). Early **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were one at Font Hill Park, HO on Sept. 12 (Schwarz), one at Pylesville on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), and one at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig, Cribb). Two **Downy Woodpeckers** at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman) were probably migrants. High counts of migrant **Northern Flickers** were 17 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 29 (Scarpulla +), 20 at Terrapin on Sept. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Baer +), 30 at St. Michaels and 35 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 30 (Reese, Allen), and 100 at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi).

**Flycatchers.** **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were widespread with one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 19-21 (Pisano, Hubbell +) and Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Mattawoman NEA on Aug. 26-27 (Fallon +), one at Ellicott City on Aug. 29 (Ott, Zeichner) and Sept. 12 (Ott), one at Pennyfield on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 (Homan +), one at Cylburn on Sept. 2 (Sanford), one at McKee-Beshers on Sept. 2 (Czaplak +), one at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 6 (Shaffer), two at Granite, BA on Sept. 8 (Costley, Art Rogers), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 15 (Fisher), one at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Dyke), and a late one at Turkey Point on Oct. 1 (Johnston). A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Dameron on Oct. 5 (Craig). Reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 21 (Pisano), two in Caroline Co. on Aug. 25 (Stasz), one at Centennial on Aug. 29 (Ott), one at Ellicott City on Aug. 30 (Ott +), one at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 31 (Shaffer), one at PWRC on Sept. 5 (Erwin), one near Queenstown on Sept. 8 (Stasz), one at Assateague on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga), one at Harford Glen on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), and one at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 together with a late **Acadian Flycatcher** (Craig, Cribb). Another late Acadian was reported at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 15 (Eastman) and one at Gwynn Acres Path, HO on Sept. 17 (Ott, Solem +). A "Traill's" Flycatcher banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 13 was tentatively identified as an **Alder Flycatcher** (Hafner, Gruber). Stasz noted a migrant Traill's Flycatcher at Back River on Aug. 11 and one at Fort McHenry on Sept. 12 was tentatively identified as a **Willow Flycatcher** (Peters +). The first migrant **Least Flycatcher** was at Chino Farms on Aug. 16 (Hafner), a late one was at Table Rock on Sept. 29 (Felton, Calise), and a very late one was at Assateague on Oct. 15 (Iliff). Highs for **Eastern Phoebe**s were 21 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 29 (Scarpulla +), 20 at St. Michaels and 10 at Tilghman I. on Sept. 30 (Reese, Allen), and 10 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper); two at Eden Mill on Nov. 22 (Cheicante, Larkin) were late. A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** photographed near Hurlock on Oct. 1 (Charlotte and Bill Diedrich, Shirley Bailey) was the stunning surprise of the season. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Dyke) was astounding but one at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 11-12 (Hilton, Shannon +), a first for DC, was in the expected time period. Late **Great Crested Flycatchers** were one at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +), one at Denton on Sept. 24 (Nuttle), one at Wilde Lake on Sept. 25 (Zeichner), and one at St. Michaels on Sept. 30 (Reese). The only **Western Kingbirds** of the season were one at Assateague on Oct. 9 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and one at Layhill on Nov. 5 (Bowen). Migrant **Eastern Kingbirds** included 20 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold) and 21 there on Aug. 29 (Hoffman, Iliff, Powell), 15 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18 (Ricciardi +), and 20 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 19 (Reese); a late bird was at Fort McHenry on Sept. 28 (Stasz).

**Vireos.** A late **White-eyed Vireo** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 27 (Wilson). A late **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at UWBP on Sept. 23 (P. O'Brien), another was at Pigtail Branch, HO on Sept. 25 (Ott, Solem), and two were near Chingville on Oct. 5 (T. & C. Dew). The first migrant **Blue-headed Vireo** of the season was at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 7 (Shaffer) and the latest was one at Berlin on Nov. 10 (Churchill). A migrant **Warbling Vireo** was at Dameron on Sept. 13 (Craig) and an exceptionally late one was at Alpha Ridge on Oct. 7 (Arnold). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireos** were single birds at MPEA on Aug. 28 (Zeichner, Betts), Centennial on Sept. 2 (Ott), Turkey Point on Sept. 2 (Fisher), Terrapin on Sept. 8 (Stasz), Ellicott City on Sept. 12 (Ott), Bosely Conservancy, HA and Harford Glen on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), Mount Pleasant on Sept. 15 (E. & J. Metter), Triadelphia, HO on Sept. 15 (Paul Zucker +), Rockburn on Sept. 15 (Ott +), Cylburn Park on Sept. 16 (Sanford), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Hubbell), Sept. 26 (Cooper), and Sept. 29 (Sussman), and Assateague on Oct. 7 (Dyke, Decker, Deward); the only report of two was at Dameron on Sept. 12 (Craig). Estimates of migrant **Red-eyed Vireos** were 40 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher) and 30 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late bird was at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 15 (Shaffer).

**Corvids, Swallows.** **Blue Jays** during the peak of migration numbered 1,185 at Gardenville, BC on Sept. 29 (Graff), 130 at Terrapin on Sept. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Baer +), 600 at Alpha Ridge on Oct. 4 (Ott), 600 at Turkey Point on Oct. 7 (Hafner), and 700 at Tilghman I. on Oct. 7 (Reese, Willey, Allen). Hundreds of **American Crows** were observed flying over Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise) and Pope noted 200 flying over Broadford Lake the same day. About 200 **Fish Crows** were at Tanyard on Aug. 24 (Engle) and Stasz noted 200 at Terrapin on Aug. 25. A **Common Raven** at Kinder Farm Park on Aug. 29 (Baker) had wandered far from its expected territory, on Sept. 14 Paulus had six in sight at one time over Polish Mountain, and on Oct. 13 a flock of eight flew over Town Hill (Paulus, Kiddy +). Highs for **Purple Martins** were 214 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +) and 300 at Rock Hall on Aug. 5 (Stasz, Hafner); late birds were four at Nicholas Ridge, AL on Aug. 22 (Paulus), one near Daisy on Sept. 1 (Wallace), one at Belmont on Sept. 1 (Ott), seven at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 (Scarpulla +), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 1 (Fisher), one at Tilghman Island on Sept. 3 (Reese), and one near Kane Crossroads, CN on Sept. 8 (Stasz). Concentrations of **Tree Swallows** were 2,500 at Berlin on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), 25,000 at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Arnold), 1,600 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 13 (Scarpulla +), and 200 at Ridgely on Oct. 17 (Scudder); two at Jarrettsville on Nov. 4 (Graff) were late. A leucistic Tree Swallow was at Hurlock on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead). About 575 **Bank Swallows** were at Hurlock on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead) and 500 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +); two birds at Hurlock on Sept. 29 (Stasz, Hafner) were late. Migrant **Cliff Swallows** were one at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 and Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +) and one at Tilghman Island on Aug. 19 (Reese). The report of a Cliff Swallow at E. A. Vaughn WMA on the extraordinary date of Oct. 27 (Wilson) begs the question about the possibility of it being a Cave Swallow. Late **Barn Swallows** were four at Dameron on Oct. 19 (Craig), one at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla, Bystrak), and one at Chestertown on Nov. 4 (Hafner).

**Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creeper.** Stasz reported two **Carolina Chickadees** and one **Black-capped Chickadee** on Nov. 24 at the Reno Monument on the border of Frederick and Washington counties on South Mountain. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** arrived early with one at Easton on Aug. 15 (Arlene Koch), one near Dan's Rock on Aug. 18 (Kiddy), one at Parsonsburg on Aug. 21 (Pitney), one on Kent I. on Aug. 22 (Karen Harris), one at California on Aug. 23 (T. Bell), one at St. Michaels on Aug. 25 (Margie Steffens), one at Washington Monument SP on Aug. 25 (Weesner), one at Tilghman I. on Aug. 26 (Reese), one near Chingville

on Aug. 30 (T. & C. Dew), and one at Western RP on Aug. 31 (Ott); a high of 20 was found at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi). A high of 25 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** was found at Tilghman I. on Sept. 15 (Reese, Willey, Ford). A **Brown Creeper** at Eden Mill on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell) and one at Ellicott City the same day (Hank Stanton) were very early.

**Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.** High counts of **House Wrens** were 25 at Layhill on Sept. 10 (Cooper) and 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Very early **Winter Wrens** were one at Centennial on Sept. 13 (Austin) and one in Frederick Co. near Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner). Reports of **Sedge Wrens** were one at UMCF on Sept. 1 (Ott), two at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 23 (E. Kirschbaum), and one at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Jim Lemert). Migrant **Marsh Wrens** were one at UMCF on Sept. 27 and Oct. 28 (Ott +), one at Terrapin on Sept. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Baer +), one at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 9-11 (Shaffer), and two at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 16 (Hilton, Shannon). An early **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Bethesda, MO on Sept. 24 (Huy) and a high of 30 was at JEDS on Oct. 21 (Reese). High counts of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 25 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper) and 30 at Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 20 (N. & F. Saunders). Reese noted three migrant **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 5 and hundreds were reported at Turkey Point on Sept. 9 (Fisher); late were four at Tilghman Island on Sept. 30 (Reese, Allen).

**Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings.** Highs for **Veery** were 10 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 2 (Reese), 20 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher), and six at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig, Cribb). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** reported were one at Columbia on Sept. 8 (D. Coskren) and Sept. 15 (Holbrook), one at PWRC on Sept. 26 (Shaffer), five found dead at the base of the tower at Table Rock on Sept. 29 (Felton, Calise), and one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Hubbell). Pope saw a **Hermit Thrush** carrying food for young in Garrett Co. on the late date of Aug. 26. A late **Wood Thrush** was at Hallmark on Oct. 16 (Ebert) and one was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Hubbell). The **American Robin** roost at Easton peaked at 25,210 birds on Oct. 25 (Reese, Allen). Pisano estimated 1,000 robins at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 26. High **Gray Catbird** counts were 22 at Terrapin on Sept. 8 (Stasz), 72 at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), 30 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig), and 22 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +); late birds were one at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 23 (Hilton, Pisano) and three at Reno Monument, FR/WA on Nov. 24 (Stasz). Highs for **Brown Thrashers** were 20 at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman) and 10 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig). Two **American Pipits** at Jug Bay on Aug. 17 (P. O'Brien) were extraordinary; one at Triadelphia on Sept. 6 (Sussman) was merely very early. There were 140 pipits at UMCF on Oct. 20 (Magnusson) and 40 at Point Lookout on Nov. 30 (Craig). The largest numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** reported were 750 at Polish Mountain on Sept. 13 (Paulus), 200 at Rockburn on Oct. 31 (Sunell, Wright), 300 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 23 (Reese, Willey), and hundreds at Point Lookout on Nov. 30 (Craig).

**Vermivora Warblers, Parulas.** Four **Blue-winged Warblers** were at Dameron on Sept. 1 (Craig) and a very late one was at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi). The only **Golden-winged Warblers** reported were singles at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 24 (Hubbell), Assateague on Aug. 24 (Hoffman), Piney Run on Aug. 25 (D. & M. Harvey), Turkey Point on Sept. 6 (Powell, Sollers), and E. A. Vaughn WMA on Sept. 12 (Hoffman). A hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at Dameron on Aug. 19 (Craig). **Tennessee Warblers** were reported in very small numbers from one at Centennial on Aug. 29 (Ott) to one at Assateague on Oct. 7 (Dyke, Decker, Deward). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Tilghman Island on Sept. 2 (Reese) was record early; others were single birds at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Dyke) and Oct. 15 (Iliff),

Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Hubbell), Western RP on Oct. 20 (Ott +), and E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 27 (Stasz). Single **Nashville Warblers** on Aug. 3 at Western RP (Ott) and Centennial (Schwarz) were extraordinary. Six Nashvilles were seen at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 12 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a late bird was at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 16 (Hafner, Solem). Ten **Northern Parulas** were at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher) and a late bird was at UMCF on Oct. 19 (Ott +).

**Dendroica Warblers.** A very late **Yellow Warbler** was at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** of the fall migration was at Dameron on Aug. 15 (Craig), highs of 12 at Turkey Point on Sept. 6 (Powell, Sollers), 22 at Dameron on Sept. 11 (Craig), and 15 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 15 (Mackiernan, Cooper) were found during the peak movement, and a late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 1 (Hubbell). High counts of **Magnolia Warblers** were 20 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher), 20 at Dameron on Sept. 8 (Craig), 29 at six sites in Harford Co. on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), and 30 at Centennial on Sept. 15 (Paul McGowan); late birds were two at Tanyard on Oct. 18 (Engle), one at Layhill on Oct. 20 (Sussman), and one at Turkey Point on Oct. 25 (Fisher). Early **Cape May Warblers** were one banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 17 (Gruber), one at Assateague on Aug. 29 (Hoffman), and two at Cylburn on Sept. 2 (Sanford); highs were five at Dameron on Sept. 11 (Craig) and eight at Conowingo Dam on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner); two at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper) and three at Tanyard the same day (Engle) were the last. The first **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was near Oakland, CN on Aug. 25 (Stasz); peak counts were 10 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 12 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 10 at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi); a late bird was at Bryans Road on Oct. 21 (Jett). Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were exceptionally early migrants at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 (Scarpulla +), Terrapin on Sept. 2 (Stasz), Eden Mill on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), and Avalon Area of PVSP on Sept. 15 (Arnold). Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were in St. Mary's Co. with one near Chincoteague on Aug. 5 (T. & C. Dew) and one at Dameron on Aug. 15 (Craig). Sept. 15 was the peak day for Black-throated Greens when 20 were at Centennial (McGowan) and 20 were at six Harford Co. locations (Stasz, Hafner, Powell); a late bird was at Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise) and another near Rocks on Nov. 6 (Bowers). Four **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Dameron on Aug. 22 and Sept. 1; two late birds were there on Oct. 5 (Craig), and another late one was near Rocks on Oct. 5 (Bowers). Late **Yellow-throated Warblers** were two at Assateague on Sept. 15 (Lovelace) and one at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 23 (Lev). A **Pine Warbler** at Carey Run Sanctuary on Sept. 8 (Arnold) was a rarity for Garrett Co.; 20 at Point Lookout on Sept. 15 and 20 at Ridge on Sept. 28 (Craig, Bishop) were expected. A very late Prairie Warbler was near Rocks on Oct. 18 (Bowers). Early **Palm Warblers** were one at Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 1 (Magnusson), one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one western subspecies at PWRC on Sept. 5 (Erwin), three at Western RP on Sept. 6 (Ott), three westerns at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +), one western at Assateague on Sept. 8 (Hafner, Baer), one western at Dan's Mountain, AL on Sept. 9 (Arnold), one yellow subspecies with two westerns at Point Lookout on Sept. 11 (Craig), and two westerns at Broadford Lake on Sept. 12 (Pope). High counts of Palm Warblers were 25 at Queenstown on Oct. 2 (Reese), 30 at Western RP on Oct. 20 (Ott, Solem +), and 15 at Layhill on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper); late birds were three at UMCF on Oct. 31 (Ott +), two yellows at Layhill on Nov. 2 (Cooper), four yellows at Berlin on Nov. 10 (Churchill), one of unspecified type at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 16 (Hilton, Shannon), and one western at Dameron on Nov. 30 (Craig). Early **Blackpoll Warblers** were one at Milford Mill Park on Aug. 31 (Sanford), one near Broadford Lake on Sept. 1 (Pope), and one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late one was at Assateague on Nov. 10 (Davidson, Wierenga). A male **Cerulean Warbler** at McKeldin on Sept. 2 (Ringler), one in southern Howard Co. on

Sept. 15 (J. Coskren, Solem), and one near Chingville on Sept. 18 (T. & C. Dew) were the only ones reported.

**Other Warblers, Tanagers.** A **Black-and-white Warbler** at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 7 (Stasz) was probably the first migrant of the fall; high counts were 15 at Turkey Point on Sept. 6 (Powell, Sollers), 18 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 15 (Reese, Willey, Ford), and 16 at Dameron on Sept. 16 (Craig); a late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper). An **American Redstart** near Chingville on Aug. 7 (T. & C. Dew) and one at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 9 (Shaffer) began the migration that peaked with 64 at Assateague on Aug. 29 (Hoffman, Iliff, Powell), 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher), and 20 at Dameron on Sept. 12 (Craig), and ended with one at Salisbury on Oct. 14 (Lawler), one at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 16 (Hafner), one at Bryans Road on Oct. 21 (Jett), and one at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Stasz). The last **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 12 (Shaffer). A very late **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Harford Glen on Sept. 23 (Cheicante). A very late **Ovenbird** was in DC near Washington Circle on Nov. 29 (Clive Harris). The first **Northern Waterthrush** was seen on the Mall on Aug. 9 (Felley) followed by one at Dameron on Aug. 11 (Craig). A very late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Vantage Point on Sept. 6 (Zeichner). A late **Kentucky Warbler** was at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 15 (Waugh). Single **Connecticut Warblers** were seen at Piney Run on Aug. 25 (D. & M. Harvey), Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 (Dobbins) and Sept. 5 (Hubbell), PWRC on Sept. 5 (Erwin), Eden Mill on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), Middle Patuxent River, HO on Sept. 15 (J. Coskren), Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +), Wyanan's Meadow in Baltimore on Oct. 7 (Crabtree), Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dent, Djoudi), and Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 20 (N. & F. Saunders). Single **Mourning Warblers** were banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 7 (Gruber) and seen at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 (Cooper), Aug. 31 (Halpin), and Sept. 26 (Cooper). Other single birds were in Maryland at Point Lookout on Sept. 11 (Craig), Eden Mill on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), Waterford Farm, HO on Sept. 15 (Wallace), Tunis Mills on Sept. 18 (Roslund), and Dameron on Oct. 1-4 (Craig +). High counts of **Common Yellowthroats** were 25 at Alpha Ridge on Sept. 9 (Ott), 25 at Western RP on Sept. 18 (Ott, Arnold), and 40 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 22 (Scarpulla +); a late bird was at Point Lookout on Oct. 30 (Craig), one at Pennyfield on Oct. 31 (Schindler), and one at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead +). A late **Hooded Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 1 (Hubbell). An early **Wilson's Warbler** was at Western RP on Aug. 31 (Ott) and a very late one was at Oakland Mills Garden Plots, Columbia on Nov. 28 (Wilkinson). The earliest **Canada Warbler** of the fall was at Point Lookout on Aug. 13 (Craig). The last **Yellow-breasted Chat** reported was at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 16 (Shaffer). Craig counted seven **Summer Tanagers** at Dameron on Sept. 16; one at Ellicott City on Oct. 3 (Ott) was extraordinary. The last **Scarlet Tanagers** of the season were one at Assateague on Oct. 7 (Dyke, Decker, Deward), one at Turkey Point the same day (Hafner), and one at Dameron on Oct. 8 (Craig).

**Sparrows.** Exceptionally early was an **American Tree Sparrow** near Chingville on Oct. 28 (T. & C. Dew) and as was one at Western RP on Nov. 4 (Ott, Holdridge). High counts of **Chipping Sparrows** were 100 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper) and 45 at JEDS on Oct. 21 (Reese); late were 35 at Layhill on Nov. 2 (Cooper) and two at Berlin on Nov. 10 (Churchill). **Clay-colored Sparrows** were one at Ocean City on Sept. 22 (Craig), one at Oxon Hill Farm, PG on Oct. 7 (Mozurkewich), two at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 14-15 (Ott, Schwarz +), one at Meadowbrook on Oct. 27 (Holbrook), one at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Stasz), and one at Western RP on Nov. 4 (Ott, Magnusson, Cullison). The high for **Field Sparrows** was 60 at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 14 (Ott). Migrant **Vesper Sparrows** included one at Point Breeze in Baltimore on Oct. 15 (Wilkinson), one at Western RP on Oct. 18 (Ott), two at

Antietam National Battlefield, WA on Oct. 19 (Weesner), one at Layhill on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 26 (Pisano), one at Hart-Miller on Oct. 27 (Scarpulla, Boltz), four at UMCF on Oct. 28 (Ott), one at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Stasz), and one at Meadowbrook on Nov. 12 (Zeichner, Martha Chestem). An immature **Lark Sparrow** was at Assateague on Aug. 24–31, two were there on Aug. 29 (Hoffman +), an immature was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 1 (Scarpulla +), and an adult was at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 25 (Poet). The first migrant **Savannah Sparrows** were five at Western RP on Sept. 8 (Ott), seven at Hart-Miller on Sept. 8 (Scarpulla +), and three at Perryman, HA on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner). Ott tallied 118 Savannah Sparrows in western Howard Co. on Oct. 19. The only migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported from Howard Co. with one at UMCF on Sept. 28 (Ott, Solem, Tufts), one at Western RP on Oct. 20 (Ott +), two at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 21 (Ott +), and one at Meadowbrook on Oct. 27 (Holbrook). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA, Oct. 20 through Nov. 11 (Hafner +). The only **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were one at UMCF on Sept. 27 through Oct. 16, two there on Oct. 2 (Ott +), and two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 27 (Stasz, Krogh); the only **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were one at Holland I. on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), one at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla +), and two at Flag Ponds on Oct. 23 (Ripley). The Dorchester Co. islands harbored one **Seaside Sparrow** at Adam I., five at Bloodsworth I., and seven at Holland I. on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Bowen counted 26 **Fox Sparrows** on Nov. 8 at Rachel Carson Conservation Park, MO and a slate-colored subspecies was seen there on Nov. 23 (P. & M. O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis, Gary Rosenberg). Cheicante saw at least 10 Fox Sparrows at Eden Mill on Nov. 11. Migrant **Song Sparrows** included 225 at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 17 (Ott), 248 at UMCF on Oct. 19 (Ott, Solem), 250 at Layhill on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 75 at Broadford Lake on Oct. 28 (Pope), and hundreds at Point Lookout on Oct. 30 (Craig). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Western RP on Sept. 1 (Ott, Magnusson) was exceptionally early, six were at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Ott +), and late birds were a fresh tower kill at Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise), one at Broadford Lake on Oct. 28 (Pope), one at Layhill on Oct. 28 (N. & F. Saunders), one at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Stasz), one at Meadowbrook on Oct. 29 (Arnold, Maloney), two at UMCF on Oct. 31 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), and two at the Assateague Visitor Center, WO on Nov. 10 (N. & F. Saunders). **Swamp Sparrows** numbered 112 in western Howard Co. on Oct. 19 (Ott) and 60 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 27 (Stasz, Krogh). **White-throated Sparrows** made an extraordinarily early showing this fall with one at PWRC on Sept. 5 (Erwin), two at Lake Kittamaqudini on Sept. 6 (Zeichner), one at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 12 (Shaffer), one at UWBP on Sept. 13 (P. O'Brien), one at Harford Glen on Sept. 15 (Stasz, Hafner, Powell), two at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 16 (Eastman), one at Western RP on Sept. 18 (Ott, Arnold), and one at Cumberland on Sept. 22 (Paulus). High counts of White-throats were 200 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 18 (Cooper) and 200 at Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 20 (N. & F. Saunders). A **Harris's Sparrow** was a surprise at Point Lookout SP on Nov. 20–26 (Craig +). Early **White-crowned Sparrows** were single birds at Tunis Mills on Sept. 28 (Roslund), Terrapin on Sept. 29 (Stasz, Hafner, Baer +), and Alpha Ridge on Oct. 4 (Ott). Pope found eight White-crowns at Broadford Lake and six at Mountain Lake Park on Oct. 28. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was at Black Hill RP on Nov. 12 (Czaplak).

*Juncos, Snow Buntings, Cardinaline Finches.* An early **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Pickering Creek on Sept. 16 (W. Bell), one was at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 17 (Weesner), and one was at Waldorf on Sept. 22 (Jett); 150 were at Dameron on Oct. 30 (Craig). **Snow Buntings** appeared at Fort McHenry on Oct. 31 through Nov. 12 with a peak of seven on the 7<sup>th</sup> (Peters +); others were one at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 12 (Czaplak) and five at Point Lookout on Nov. 22 (Stasz). The first migrant **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at Chino Farms on Aug. 16 (Hafner) and the last was one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 21 (Costley). The latest **Blue**

**Grosbeak** was one at UMCF on Oct. 16 (Ott +). The highs for **Indigo Buntings** were 40 at Marriottsville on Aug. 24 (Ott) and 60 at UMCF on Sept. 18 (Ott, Arnold); late birds were one at Layhill on Oct. 20 (Sussman) and two at Dameron on Oct. 21 (Craig). The only migrant **Dickcissels** were one at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hafner +) and one at Western RP on Oct. 18 (Ott).

**Icterids.** Early **Bobolinks** were four at Hart-Miller on Aug. 4 (Scarpulla +), six at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman, Arnold +), and 12 at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 18 (Ringler, Terry); one late bird was at UMCF on Oct. 31 (Ott, Solem, Holdridge). About 3,500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at Wye Island on Nov. 4 (Reese, Poet). A migrant **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Fort McHenry on Oct. 21 (Costley). A **Rusty Blackbird** at Turkey Point on Oct. 1 (Johnston) was exceptionally early as were nine at Lilypons the next day (Weesner) and one at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Iliff, Ott +) since the next report was one at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 17 (Fallon). Highs for Rusty Blackbirds were only 20 at Meadowbrook on Oct. 19 (Ott), 20 at KAG on Oct. 23 (Mike Milton), and 35 at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 21 (Wilkinson). Scarpulla and Boltz found two **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Hart-Miller on Oct. 27 and one male was near Centreville on Nov. 9-11 (Hafner, Fehskens, Stasz). Flocks of **Common Grackles** included 2,500 at Centreville on Aug. 6-7 (Reese), 1,200 at Dameron on Aug. 20 (Craig), 1,000 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 23 (Diana Cummins), and 2,500 at Easton on Oct. 18-25 (Reese, Allen). Stasz estimated 2,500 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at Hurlock on Sept. 8 with the flock being almost all males. Mozurkewich found 15 **Orchard Orioles** at Oxon Hill Farm on Aug. 24 and late birds were one at Turkey Point on Sept. 7 (Fisher), two at Terrapin on Sept. 8 (Stasz), one at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 11 (Shaffer), two at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig, Cribb), and an extraordinarily late one at Harford Glen on Sept. 29 (Cheicante). Mozurkewich also scored with **Baltimore Orioles** in big numbers in Prince George's Co.: 20 at Fort Foote on Aug. 25 and 50 at Oxon Hill the next day. Other Baltimore Orioles included an early migrant at Tilghman Island on Aug. 5 (Reese), 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Fisher), and 24 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig, Cribb); lingering birds included a male at Ellicott City on Nov. 27 (Emily Miller) and another (or the same) male less than a mile away on Nov. 30 (Connie Bockstie).

**Cardueline Finches.** Early **Purple Finches** were one at Waldorf on Sept. 8 (Jett), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 9 (Fisher), one at UWBP on Sept. 13 (P. O'Brien), one at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 13 (Shaffer), two at Easton on Sept. 13 (W. Bell), and two at Parsonsburg on Sept. 18 (Pitney). The only report of **Red Crossbills** was two at Town Hill on Oct. 6 (Paulus). A **White-winged Crossbill** was at a feeder in Columbia on Nov. 1 (J. & D. Coskren +). The only **Common Redpoll** was at a Middletown, FR feeder on Nov. 8 (Alexander). **Pine Siskins** made their best showing in years, beginning with one at West Columbia on Oct. 6 (Holbrook), 35 at Upper Marlboro on Oct. 13 (Harry Lotis), one at Parsonsburg on Oct. 14 and 13 on Nov. 2 (Pitney), several at Bel Air on Oct. 18 (Larkin), one at Elk Neck, CE on Oct. 19 (Brian Moyer), five at Ellicott City on Oct. 20 (Ott), four at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 20 (Weesner, Alexander), and five at Mountain Lake Park on Oct. 21 (Pope). Other sizeable numbers of siskins were many at Lamb's Knoll on Oct. 21 (Huy), 25 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 22 (Weesner), and 40 at Turkey Point on Oct. 27 (Fisher). Reese and Willey estimated 600 **American Goldfinches** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 23. Sightings of **Evening Grosbeaks** also improved this year with 12 flying over Polish Mountain on Oct. 20 (Paulus), one at Elk Neck on Oct. 25 (McCandless), one at Turkey Point on Oct. 28-30 (Watson-Whitmyre, Fisher), one at Table Rock on Oct. 28 (Felton, Schneider, Calise), nine at Mountain Lake Park on Oct. 28 (Pope), five on Kent Island on Oct. 29 (Karen Harris), three flying over Washington Monument SP on Oct. 30 (Weesner, Hugh Mahanes), five at Pennyfield on Oct.

31 (Schindler), 11 near Parsonsburg on Nov. 1 (*fide* D. Broderick), two at Swansfield, Columbia on Nov. 2 (June Tveekrem), 16 at Ellicott City on Nov. 5 (Ott, Solem +), 120 in four flocks flying over Washington Monument SP on Nov. 9 (Weesner), and 8-10 at Woodstock on Nov. 28 (Lynn & Linda Holley).

**Exotics.** A **Greylag Goose** was at Sandy Point on Aug. 12 (Schreitz) and another was at Piney Run on Nov. 23 (Ringler). A **Ruddy Shelduck** was at Jug Bay on Aug. 21 (Fallon).

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#### Addenda & Corrigenda from Previous Issues

In the hawk migration table on page 37 of Volume 56, the first date for Northern Goshawk should be 4/3, not 4/23. The Hairy Woodpecker nest reported in the Spring 1999 season (Volume 56, page 39) was actually at Stevensville, QA and not as listed. Delete the report of one Great Black-backed Gull at Little Pool on May 21, 2000 from Volume 57, page 34.

The following hawk migration table was inadvertently omitted from the spring 2000 season report:

### MIGRANT VULTURES AND DIURNAL RAPTORS, SPRING 2000 AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, ANNE ARUNDEL Co.

Compiled by Sue Ricciardi

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	2/16	6/8	233	52 on 3/26, 27 on 3/4
Turkey Vulture	2/16	6/9	3,246	499 on 3/26, 240 on 3/25
Osprey	3/4	6/9	371	44 on 4/12, 34 on 4/23
Swallow-tailed Kite	5/18	1		
Mississippi Kite	5/9	6/3	4	also 1 on 5/18 & 5/24
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/16	5/17	1,928	213 on 4/30, 199 on 5/2
Cooper's Hawk	2/16	5/24	409	35 on 4/5 & 4/6
Northern Goshawk	3/25	4/11	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/16	5/1	246	43 on 3/3, 31 on 4/6
Broad-winged Hawk	4/2	6/8	958	432 on 5/9, 205 on 4/24
Red-tailed Hawk	2/16	5/24	403	92 on 4/6, 63 on 4/8
Golden Eagle	4/6	1		
American Kestrel	2/25	5/2	866	248 on 4/12, 123 on 3/26
Merlin	3/26	5/6	43	6 on 4/12, 5 on 4/24 & 4/30
Peregrine Falcon	4/19	4/29	3	also 1 on 4/20
Unidentified Raptors			27	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2/16</b>	<b>6/9</b>	<b>8,926</b>	<b>864 on 3/26, 554 on 5/9</b>
402.2 hours of observation on 83 days.				

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTERS

### CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Amy Hoffman, President*

During the Carroll County Bird Club's 2001-2002 season, we held eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College with an average attendance of 14 members and guests. The featured speakers covered many topics of interest: Three Centuries of Birds — Artists & Writers Before Audubon (Janet Millenson), Identifying Confusing Fall Warblers (Pete Webb), England, Scotland & Wales (Larry & Jean Fry), Northeastern Australia (Greg Kearns), Maryland's Breeding Bird Atlas 2002-2005 (Bob Ringler), Land Bird Survey of Aberdeen Proving Grounds (Jim McCann), Night of the Radishes, Oaxaca, Mexico (Dave Harvey), and Birding 101 — Final Exam (Mark Hoffman).

Members Mark Hoffman, Dave Harvey, Bob Ringler, Gail Frantz, Laura Tarbell and Jerry Tarbell led field trips to Carroll County hot spots and beyond. More distant trips were taken to view fall migration at Cape May, NJ and winter birds on Kent Island. Several members again celebrated Presidents' Day weekend at the Eastern Shore and were rewarded with great looks at a Northern Saw-whet Owl, as promised by "Mr. Wooster County."

Many members participated in the annual fall, winter, and May bird counts. Dave and Maureen Harvey, Kathy and Kurt Harden, and Amy and Mark Hoffman hosted the tally rallies. Several members were active in state level projects: Maureen Harvey chaired the Conservation Committee and continued her Teaming with Wildlife efforts; Bob Ringler chaired the MOS Seasonal Counts Committee; and Dave Harvey chaired the MOS Nominations Committee.

We had a successful year with several new members, excellent speakers at our meetings, and birdy field trips. We look forward to the upcoming year.

### HARFORD BIRD CLUB

*Carol A. Flora, President*

The plus side of writing an annual report is being able to see all that has happened within the organization. It is amazing and gratifying to tally the efforts of many dedicated members. The Harford Bird Club has indeed had a full and productive year.

Our membership stands at 188. There have been deaths in our ranks but also newcomers to keep this number consistent while efforts continue to help our membership grow. We continue to produce a quality bi-monthly newsletter thanks to Rick Cheicante and the members who contribute articles and other information. The Club has a new website thanks to Les Eastman. It allows easier access to information on birding in Harford County and for dissemination of information and announcements to members. The Harford County Bird checklist has been revised and published. A John Wortman MOS Scholarship was established with the first to be awarded in 2003.

The Club hosted the MOS Board Meeting in March, 2002 at the Anita Leight Sanctuary. Our hardworking Fieldtrip Committee organized 55 successful trips both in the county and at sites as far away as Bombay Hook and Eastern Neck NWR in Kent County. The Bird Club participated in three Counts: the Rock Run Christmas Count in which 50 birders, including 15 high school students, logged 99 species for a total of 129,182 individual birds; the Midwinter Count; and the annual May Count which yielded 148 species and 8264 individual birds.

The Harford Bird Club is very much involved in the Breeding Bird Atlas Project under the guidance of Dennis Kirkwood and Bill Russell. To-date, 27 individuals are assigned to 58 blocks — approximately 80% of the area designated. Club members donated the proceeds from two raffles in support of the project.

The Publicity Committee set up displays at the Earth Day event at Swan Harbor in April and at the Havre de Grace Waterfowl Festival in May. There was a lot of interest in the displays and the bird identification test visitors were asked to take. The Club passed out seed, bookmarks, and Harford County Bird Lists.

Our hard-working Conservation Committee of one — Debbie Bowers — was ever vigilant to protect threatened birding habitat. “In April 2001, I used bird club slides to present a program to the Isaak Walton League about land use and bird habitat, and how landowners can protect their properties from future development through the use of conservation easements that can be tailored to permanently protect and enhance bird habitat. I also helped several landowners prepare for conservation easement negotiations. One project resulted in the permanent protection of 19 acres of forest along the north side of Houcks Mill Rd. Another project will permanently protect from timbering a block of 118 acres of forest just over the line in Baltimore County.

This forest includes a healthy tributary to the Gunpowder and a woodland of this size is rare in the Manor. It will be permanent bird habitat for such species as Scarlet Tanager and Pileated Woodpecker. I also continued work with the Harford County Department of Public Works to assure preservation of some of our dirt roads in the rural areas of the county which are great for leisurely and safe bird walks. Also, we are keeping in contact with Constellation Energy regarding protection of the Perryman plant site, especially the woodcock habitat area. Ornithological interests are being promoted in Harford County and beyond!”

The Education Committee, headed by Jean Fry was also very busy. Two programs have been developed — one for elementary students and one for adult community groups. This year thirteen presentations were done with one still to do in July. The elementary programs are geared toward second, third, and fourth grade students. In some cases, they are given to a combination of grade levels. Adult group presentations included a retirement community and a garden club. We probably reached about 600 students and about 100 adults.

Social events included: A Summer Social in July at the Anita Leight Sanctuary at which Annual Awards were presented for Birder of the Year, Volunteers of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Bird of the Year (a Rough-legged Hawk seen at the BGE Perryman Plant); four dinner meetings in November, January, March, and May. Our Fall Picnic, generally held at Capa Field in the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, was cancelled because of base

security after Sept. 11. It is impossible to list all of the individual Club members' contributions but they were significant and very much appreciated by the Club.

### **KENT COUNTY CHAPTER**

*Pat Wilson, President*

The Kent County Chapter completed its 45th year in a state of great uncertainty! Although we can "boast" 50 members, still, we were on the brink of collapse leadership-wise. Our monthly programs welcomed interesting and expert speakers: Dr. Wayne H. Bell — "Center for the Environment and Society" at Washington College; Doug Forsell, USFWS — "Chesapeake Bay Waterfowl"; Dave Brinker, DNR—"Owls of North America"; Jean & Larry Fry — "Birds of Alaska", and Mark Hoffman — "Rare Birds of Maryland." Darryl Calloway, scholarship winner and teacher at Sudlersville Middle School in Queen Anne's Co., presented his exciting travels to the Audubon Center in Sandstone, Minnesota.

Short on Field Trips, this year, several members did get to Turkey Point for a great "Hawk Watch" in October, with the Cecil County Club. The Gibson-Mendinhal Trust did fund another scholarship this year, and funds imparted to the Club by the estate of Constance Larabee contributed to another winner.

The 2002-2006 Atlas Project #2, begun by the MOS, and already in progress, brought the Coordinator, Walter Ellison to the Chestertown area (with his family) to reside. This happening was our good fortune, for Walter is a Master birder, having completed his PhD at the University of New York, Albany. He has recently directed both research and Atlas Projects in other states. His wife, Nancy Martin, has equal status in the field of ornithology. Both of them have "jumped right into the Project" with dedication and zeal.

It was only after great consternation, and much appeal to the membership, that a relatively new member stepped forth to serve at the helm. And so, the Kent County Chapter will forge ahead with Peter Mann, willing member, and Veterinarian Pathologist, at its head, and commence to begin year 46. Barbara Fertig and Gail Regester, faithful members, will continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Nancy Martin has agreed to be the Vice-President, and Walter Ellison will fill the shoes as the State Director. There is hope again for the Chestertown faction of the State Organization.

### **TRI-COUNTY BIRD CLUB**

*Samuel H. Dyke, President*

Memberships in the Tri-County Bird Club totaled 71 in 2001-2002.

Eight monthly meetings were held from September through Mry. Programs included "Sounds of Nature," "Marine Animal Rescue," "Brood Parasitism," "Birding in Japan," "Preservation of Neotropical Habitats," "Veracruz - River of Raptors," "Hummingbirds," and the Maryland Atlas Project update.

Eleven field trips took club members and guests north to the Delaware bayshores, south to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel islands, west to Blackwater NWR, and east to the Atlantic seashores of the Delmarva Peninsula.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

*Judith S. Lilga*, President

Our chapter meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Mt. Aetna Nature Center in a beautiful stained-glass meeting room. We always have good speakers, but one who stands out from the past year is Floyd Murdock, the founder and curator of the nature center. Mr. Murdock, a world class birder, spearheaded the building of the nature center, not only as a resource for the camp and retreat center founded by the Seventh Day Adventists, but also as a repository for his large collection of bird specimens and other nature collections he has fallen heir to in his associations with such institutions as the Smithsonian. Also housed at Mt. Aetna is Mr. Murdock's inherited collection of bird eggs, one of the largest on the east coast, most of which are not on display. He is a fascinating speaker and his collections are well displayed.

Each month, excluding December, our chapter took birding trips throughout Washington and Frederick counties. Our one sojourn out of the area was to Jug Bay in April. It was, for most of us, our favorite outing, as we were able to see many birds we don't often get the opportunity to observe. Mike Callahan graciously was our leader and arranged the pontoon boat ride.

Members of our chapter have participated in a number of different counts over the past year as we believe it is important to keep the MOS name involved wherever possible. In addition to the Christmas Bird Count and the International Migratory Bird Count ("May Count"), our members volunteered to count for the C & O Canal National Historical Park Mid-Winter Bird Survey, January 21, 2001. We also volunteered to cover sections of the C & O Canal for the National Park Service Breeding Bird Count done this past June.

As community outreach, and also in an effort to make our chapter more visible, we volunteered to participate in both single-event and extended-commitment events:

1) As part of the education grants for which each chapter could apply to MOS, we were granted a \$200 request to purchase the software for Classroom FeederWatch (from Cornell) for our Washington County Public School System. The Classroom FeederWatch program was placed at the school system's highly successful Outdoor School. This "school" in Clear Spring in western Washington County consists of overnight accommodations and a variety of outdoor habitats that are utilized by the full-time staff for all fifth graders in the county. On a rotating basis the fifth graders are bussed to the outdoor school to spend three days and two nights learning about the outdoor environment and its inhabitants. The principal of the outdoor school inquired if our chapter would assist in implementing the program by sending members, once a week, to work with 4 or 5 fifth graders to identify birds at the feeders, according to the "FeederWatch" protocol. What a great opportunity! Our chapter voted money to upgrade their feeding station and we began in late October and continued through April, sending a member or two once a week. Several of our members have been Project FeederWatchers for a numbers of years so the carry-over to the Outdoor School was quite easy.

2) Within the past year the National Park Service (NPS) hired a coordinator to begin the task of documenting the animal and plant life in the national parks in Maryland, Virginia, and

West Virginia. As president of our chapter I was contacted by Marcus Koenen and asked if we would be interested in helping at Antietam National Battlefield. As it is a favorite birding site of a number of our members, and after polling our chapter, we agreed to be the official surveyors of the birds at Antietam. We began in February and will continue at least a year, and probably longer, monitoring the birds throughout the battlefield once a week. We have five of our members and one member from the Potomac Valley Audubon Society helping with this project. As one of the participants, I am certainly becoming a better birder and more observant of behaviors, especially as the seasons change. We also thought it would be good practice for the Atlas.

3) On the Antietam Battlefield Bluebirds are everywhere, thanks in large measure to the extensive Bluebird Trail of 70 boxes. This trail has been monitored weekly since 1979 by Mark and Jean Raabe. Mr. and Mrs. Rabbe were in search of an individual(s) who could fill in for them when they went away during the summer, as they are adamant that the boxes be monitored for successful breeding. With our mutual contact with the NPS staff at Antietam, our chapter was suggested to Mark and Jean as ones who might assist them. Two of us volunteered to help out and have spent numerous hours learning the "ins and outs" of box checking. We then went on to do checks for the Raabe's on five occasions and it is ongoing through August when the Rabbe's have plans to go away one more time. Each check of the 70 boxes takes about 2-3 hours. As of this date, over 250 Bluebirds have fledged this season and there are 44 boxes with second-clutch young still being raised. Mark believes he will have a record year of fledglings. These boxes certainly skew our Bluebird totals for our NPS bird survey!

4) In an effort to both inform and encourage individuals to join our chapter, we have had a booth at the annual Hagerstown Community College Alumni Flower and Garden Show for the past three years. The event has grown in size and participation over the years and we have had many people stop by our booth. We have a free raffle giving away three Bluebird boxes made by one of our members. We also agreed to give a slide show on birds that was advertised as one of their workshops. Although many people take our literature both on our local chapter and the state MOS organization, indicate they would like to join, and are excited about our local birding trips, we have garnered only four new members over the three years. Because it is a large undertaking involving much time setting up the display and organizing members to be at the booth all day, each day, for a very limited response over the three years, we will not be participating again in March of 2002.

5) As a result of two Scout leaders dropping by our booth at the Flower and Garden Show this past spring, our chapter gave a talk at a local Boy Scout Troop in the spring and we have plans to give a talk to a local nursing home and another scout troop in the fall.

Despite these many areas of involvement, our club has a serious issue of dwindling membership. We are at a low of 39 families and single memberships. The individuals who participate in all of our outreach efforts are always the same six or seven individuals and our monthly meetings average 10-15 members. We have tried to spread the word about our club, but with seemingly little success. We will not be participating in the Fall Bird Count as we have enough difficulty getting people for the CBC and the May Count. Some of our members are already committed to other chapters for the Fall count knowing we would not be doing one ourselves! Our membership consists of older individuals, and as they age out, we are not attracting significant younger members to join. I would like to discuss this problem with others in MOS who may be experiencing the same situation.

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

*Paul A. Zucker, Chair*

The budget committee met in February to put together a budget for approval by the board of directors at their March meeting. Several changes were made this year in order to continue the process of simplifying the budget. Changes were made to distinguish between operating expenses (regularly occurring, financed by yearly dues and earnings) and special expenses (one-time expenses financed from our operating reserve). New to the list of operating expenses is the annual audit we are now required to undergo (budgeted cost of \$4000). Special expenses in the budget for next year are a computer for seasonal reports (\$1500), sanctuary guide (\$2000), lawn tractor for Carey Run (\$1500), signs for sanctuary boundaries (\$7500), and a tide gate for Irish Grove Sanctuary (\$2000). The last three of these items will come from the Sanctuary Maintenance Fund, whose remaining balance will be transferred to the Sanctuary Endowment Fund. The operating fund budget for the MOS for the fiscal year starting May 1, 2002 is \$45,000. The anticipated operating fund income is also anticipated to be \$45,000, as a result of the passage of the dues increase at the annual membership meeting in June.

Apart from the operating fund are the particular funds for atlas, conference, education, research, sanctuary, and scholarship activities. For the last four of these, the budget for the coming year is equal to the earnings of the endowments from the preceding year. Increases in expenditures were approved for the Education Fund (in order to support the proposed youth programs) and for the Sanctuary Fund (in order to support Phragmites control at Irish Grove and a Sanctuary coordinator). Funding for these increases is to be supplied by allocating \$100,000 from the Schenkel bequest to the Education Endowment and \$200,000 from this bequest to the Sanctuary Endowment. The income from the remaining dollars of Schenkel money will be used to support the Atlas project. Since there is a year's lag in the use of endowment money, the increases for Education and Sanctuary in the coming year only will come from the general reserve.

This is the first year that the Atlas is in full swing, meaning that the expenditures are significantly increased from past years. A significant amount of the support for the Atlas is budgeted as being raised through grants and donations. There is an atlas reserve fund for covering contingencies.

The budget and the allocation of the Schenkel money were approved by the board of directors at the March 2002 meeting.

### ENVIRONMENTAL FUND OF MARYLAND

*Marcia Balestri, Chair*

This was a rebuilding year for the Environmental Fund of Maryland (EFM). Recent years saw budget shortfalls and the near dissolution of the organization. With the hiring of a new staff member, Nicole Wenzke, EFM is in the process of recovering. Nicole's energy and new ideas will fuel the organization, increasing campaign activities and adding contributions to all members including MOS.

Carol Jelich passed the torch as liaison to Marcia Balestri beginning in October 2001. Carol made it an easy transition over the next month or two and Marcia was in place for the first meeting of the new year. Marcia visited Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Washington County Chapters and gave a brief presentation on EFM and solicited support from MOS members. She also attended the National Alliance for Choice in Giving (NACG) Bi-Annual Meeting and Training Conference in January, a very informative conference to help fundraisers increase their capabilities to raise money. EFM is redesigning their web site and Marcia along with the help of Fran Saunders reviewed the proposed design and provided feedback.

The campaign season starts soon, and we had a trial run with a private law firm, Whiteford, Taylor, and Preston in May. We have not received word yet on the success of the campaign, but initial indications are that the turnout was good. The total amount that MOS has received from EFM since December 1 is \$5,768.73, which represents contributions from the 1999 and 2000 Combined Federal Campaigns, the Central Maryland Campaign, and the Baltimore City Campaign.

### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

*Joy Wheeler, Chair*

Activities of the MOS Library Committee in 2000-2002 have been minimal. There have been no requests for information or use of books. Reports from Irish Grove and Carey Run workdays say that the book shelves there are in good condition. Reports from Central Pratt Library in Baltimore City tell of continued interest in the use of reference books supplied by the MOS: *Handbook of the Birds of the World* and *Life Histories of North American Birds*. Journals coming to Cylburn in exchange for Maryland Birdlife come in fewer numbers. There are no requests for use of these journals. Chan Robbins' reply to whether we should continue the exchange activity was that even in the day of electronic media, print media is still valuable. Perhaps the Long Range Planning Committee may want to discuss this.

Actually, the whole issue of the MOS and Baltimore Bird Club is in a state of uncertainty. You may have seen the article in the full published in *The Baltimore Sun* about a court order closing the Baltimore Bird Club's Museum of the Birds of Maryland, in place since before 1960 at Cylburn in a second floor room, because of its inaccessibility to handicapped people. It's been very disheartening.

The Cylburn Arboretum Association, the volunteer group active at Cylburn and owner of the other museum in the Cylburn mansion on the third floor, has hired a professional master planner to assess the future of the 2 natural history collections using space in the Carnage House, among other things. The BBC has not yet come on board to support this, though they have no other stated options. So, you see things at Cylburn are unsettled in regard to its availability to the MOS. I keep busy there, volunteering Tuesdays and Thursdays

One activity I have carried out rather arbitrarily, but with space restrictions in mind, is the reduction of the remainders of *Maryland Birdlife* to no more than 10 of each issue. I have packaged and labeled each issue and talked with S. Guion about taking them to the rental storage in Laurel I have not been able to accomplish this yet.

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

*Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Chair*

During 2001–2002, the Long-Range Planning Committee continued to receive five-year plans and goal-setting documents from other committees within MOS. To date, committees that have submitted materials include Publicity, Nest Records, Sanctuary, Budget, Scholarship, Conservation, Website, Education, Yellowthroat, and Gifts.

In April of 2002, the Long-Range Planning Committee met to review the committees' materials and decide on next steps. Some common themes that MOS could choose to address became apparent in our examination of the committees' planning materials. These themes include:

- Membership issues, including the need for a plan to sustain the overall membership of MOS. Related issues are the need for every committee to have a working membership (more than a chair!) and the need to train and recruit individuals who have an interest in assuming leadership positions within the organization.
- Committee structure within MOS. The Long-Range Planning Committee observes that many of our present committees fall into three clusters: (1) a finances cluster that includes Budget, Gifts, and Investments; (2) an outreach cluster that includes Education, Scholarships, Conservation, Research, Publications, and Publicity; and (3) a data cluster that includes Nest Records, Seasonal Counts, and Records. MOS might want to consider how to enable the committees within these clusters to work together more effectively.
- Funding issues, including the need to develop a process for disbursement of unsolicited gifts, and — a big issue — a need for consensus on MOS's position with regard to giving money to other organizations who request support. The issues are handling of gifts TO MOS, and MOS making gifts TO other organizations. At the very least, MOS needs a set of working guidelines if we decide to continue to make funds available to other organizations.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is currently in the process of defining a detailed set of questions and recommendations on these issues, for presentation to the Executive Committee.

Many thanks to committee members Sally Ann Waldschmidt and Fran Saunders for their dedicated work this year, and to Norm Saunders, our pizza delivery person extraordinaire.

## NEST RECORDS COMMITTEE

*Mark S. Johnson, Chair*

The Nest Records Committee is an extension of what was commonly practiced by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society and predecessors since the late 1800's: discovery, observation, and recording nesting activities of breeding birds in Maryland. These efforts include finding nests, characterization of nests, including substrate, habitat, species, contents, and monitoring them over time. These results have been recorded onto 4x6 cards and shared

with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. To date, MOS has more than 15,000 records, currently under the stewardship of Dr. Chandler Robbins.

Current efforts have focused on creating an electronic database of these records that would facilitate browsing and querying this information. Information of this type is extremely valuable to land managers and ecologists as it provides habitat variables, location, and sometimes outcomes regarding success and failures for many species that breed in Maryland. This information is key in identifying factors that may be important to these breeding birds over time.

Records have generally increased in number until the mid 1970's. Since then, interest in observing nests and submitting these records has diminished, though interest in these results has not. Renewed interest in developing access to these data has led to a preliminary database format that resembles the nest record card. This format facilitates data entry, though query formats still need to be resolved. A committee was formed in 1998 consisting of Mark Johnson (chair), Chandler Robbins, Bob Ringler, Al Haury, and other willing volunteers to assist in reviewing not only the database construction, but also to reevaluate the nest card criteria (e.g., regarding types of nest failure, what is considered reproductive success, reclassification, etc.), and to develop safe procedures for observing nests without inadvertently contributing to nest failures. A procedure document has been developed as well as a procedure document for recording data onto the nest cards.

Other efforts have included reviews of other similar programs. The British Trust for Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada also have volunteer nest watching programs that encourage the public to witness, record, and report their results. Individuals of the Nest Record Committee have reviewed these programs also. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has similar program; however, there are no current plans to develop a database for this information. This prompted the volunteer efforts of MOS.

Limited funds have been spent in developing more nest record cards for distribution. Database development and refinement has stalled, pending participation of knowledgeable and available volunteers interested in improving query format issues. With the latest addition of a new volunteer (David Ziolkowski), we hope to add the appropriate query forms and initiate data entry. All interested volunteers, particularly those with database skill are encouraged to participate. Nest record cards, nest observation procedures, and nest card data entry procedures are available upon request.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

*David Harvey, Chair*

As per our recent phone conversation, I would like to nominate the following persons to serve as the core of the Education Committee. Currently the terms are indefinite, and I am seeking at least one additional member from the Central Maryland area.

- Eastern Shore — Dr. Peter Mann (President, Kent County Bird Club)
- Western Shore — Ms. Joanna Rawlings (Teacher, Joppatowne High School; Harford County Bird Club)
- Western Maryland — Mr. Dave Weesner (DNR Park Ranger— Washington County Bird Club)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding these nominations. I look forward to your reply.

## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (WEB SITE PORTION)**

*Frances C. Saunders, MOS State Web Site Director*

The MOS State Web Site continues to grow. Now with 362 pages, the Web Site consistently ranks high in the list of favorites visited by bird-oriented Internet users. In the 2001-2002 membership year, we added new sections for privacy policies, conservation, the possible next ten new Maryland species, the MD/DC locality list (dubbed the MOS Brag Book), and a search engine to help improve navigation. The biggest new area, however, was dedicated to the new Atlas of the MD/DC Breeding Birds, and provides a wealth of information and resources for Atlasers. The Composite Lists of species seen in MD and DC throughout the year continues as a popular section, along with our photo gallery, which now has over 80 entries. In addition, members are using the site for the organizational information they need, from count forms to sanctuary reports, and everything in between!

The MOS Nature Store has generated approximately \$134.84 in commissions to MOS from sales reported by the Without Bricks franchiser between September 2001 and June 2002. We became an Eagles Optics affiliate earlier in 2002, but no revenues have been generated thus far.

This year, an Assistant Webmaster joined us. John Hubbell, from the Montgomery Chapter, is responsible for keeping us clean and tidy and ensuring that our many links are functioning properly. The Web Site now undergoes regular “tune-ups” under John’s expert guidance. John also helps out by keeping the DC Composite List current through the year. We extend many thanks to John for his invaluable assistance.

We have new ornithology education and habitats sections in the works, our Logo Store framework is nearly ready for launching, and we are already researching and collecting designs for our planned new home pages. The Board has outlined steps to ensure that the webmasters receive information from the members on their privacy protection choices, so that these can be honored on the Web Site. When this information is received in the fall we will have surpassed all milestones in the Web Site Long Range Plan for this year.

## **SANCTUARY COMMITTEE**

*Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Chair*

**Workdays:** The usual three workdays were held during the past year. The two at Irish Grove were held on October 27, 2001 and April 6, 2002. The one at Carey Run was held on April 27, 2002. Building and trail maintenance was done at both sanctuaries.

The Strategic Planning Committee met several times to continue its review of the MOS Sanctuary Program, including its structure, how it functions and how the sanctuaries are managed. They also went over the recommendations made in the Partner’s In Flight Management Plan to identify points and project to be pursued. These discussions also centered on how much funding would be required to carry out the projects. Several members of the committee visited sanctuaries.

Some of the results of this review were: having Carey Run surveyed to confirm the boundaries; have new signs made for posting on our boundaries; hire a part-time coordinator to see that projects get completed; and set up a budget for the coming year.

In the coming months the committee will be meeting with local sanctuary managers and chapters to work out a more effective way of managing the sanctuaries.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Jean Fry*, Chairperson

There were fifteen applicants for Audubon workshops and ten scholarships were awarded. The total cost was \$8,085. Audubon Naturalist Society contributed \$880 for the Orville Crowder scholarship; Kent County contributed \$1,150 for the Gibson-Mendinhal and Constance Larrabee scholarships; World Series of Birding contributed \$775. The amount used from the MOS scholarship fund from interest earned on investments was \$5,280. The committee is grateful to those organizations and funds which continue to cooperate with and support the MOS scholarship program.

A new scholarship was established by Lorna Wortman of the Harford County chapter in memory of her husband, John Wortman. Donations in that fund now total \$19,537. That scholarship will be awarded for the first time in 2003.

The committee chairperson prepared and presented a history of the scholarship program at the December 2001 state board meeting. A list of all of the winners since the program was started in 1959 was included in that report.

The committee continues to encourage local chapters to appoint a scholarship representative who will assist in recruiting good applicants from their area. The most important criterion is that a scholarship winner be in a position to pass knowledge gained on to young people.

The following persons are members of the committee: Michael Callahan, Charlotte Folk, Elayne Metter, Elizabeth Taylor, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, and Pat Wilson. Their time and careful consideration devoted to the ranking process is greatly appreciated.

### **Maryland Ornithological Society 2002 Scholarship Winners**

There were fifteen well-qualified applicants for scholarships to Audubon summer workshops this year, and ten scholarships were awarded. The winners are not necessarily listed in the order of ranking.

- Shelly Nicoll, Montgomery County Teacher, Forest Oak Middle School, Gaithersburg. Orville Crowder Scholarship (administered by Audubon Naturalist Society), Maine Field Ornithology.
- Van Vogel, Cecil County Teacher, Bohemia Manor High School, Chesapeake City (also MOS Education Chairperson). Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Scholarship, Maine Field Ornithology.
- Virginia Barnicoat, Anne Arundel County Teacher, Chesapeake High School, Pasadena. World Series of Birding Scholarship, Wyoming Ecology.
- Michael J. Kresko, Baltimore Teacher, Franklin Middle School, Reisterstown. Helen Miller Scholarship, Maine Field Ornithology.
- Vincent Vaise, Baltimore Park Ranger, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Helen Miller Scholarship, Maine Field Ornithology.
- Dave Weesner, Washington County Park Ranger, Department of Natural Resources, South Mountain Recreation Area. Doris Oakley Scholarship, Maine Field Ornithology.
- Eric J. Greenlee, Anne Arundel County Teacher, Chesapeake Bay Middle School, Pasadena. Doris Oakley Scholarship, Natural History of the Maine Coast (coastal ecology).
- Monica Weidel, Baltimore Naturalist, Irvine Nature Center, Stevenson. Kent County (from estate of Constance Larrabee), Interdisciplinary Environmental Education Workshop, Minnesota (Audubon Center of the North Woods).
- Susan Dorsey, Kent County Teacher, Millington Elementary School, Millington. Dan and Helen Gibson–Dorothy Mendenhall Scholarship (awarded by Kent County club to an Eastern Shore applicant), Natural History of the Maine Coast.
- Susan Venturella, Anne Arundel County Park Ranger, Kinder Farm Park, Millersville. Frances Covington–Etta Wedge Scholarship, Maine Field Ornithology.

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